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**The Best Treasured Stories
from the Quran**



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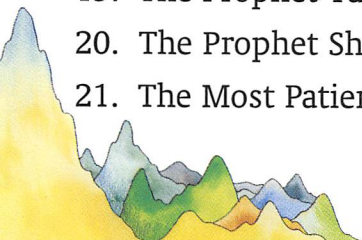
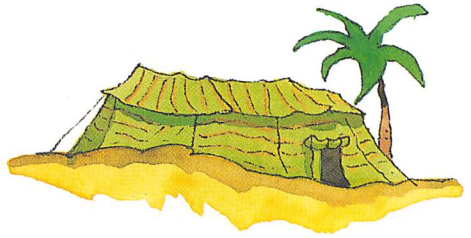
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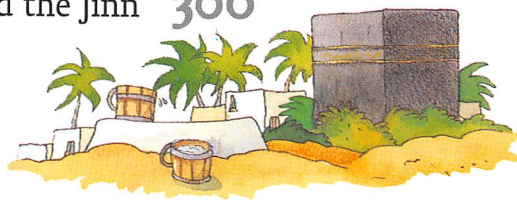
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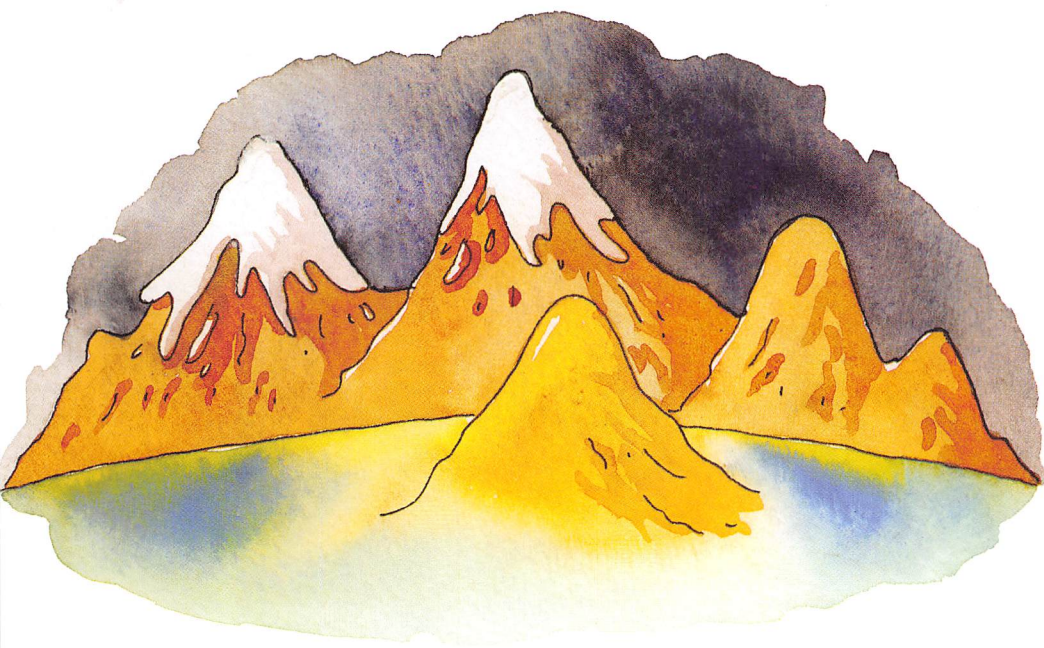


In the Beginning

A long, long time ago, there was nothing
but a great empty space.
There were no earth and no sky.
There were no sun and no moon.
There was no light anywhere.
Everything was covered with darkness.

The Merciful Allah thought of making the world.
He said: "Be!" And the world was made.

Allah wanted the world to be beautiful. He spread
the earth like a carpet. Then he put mountains on
it to hold it down.



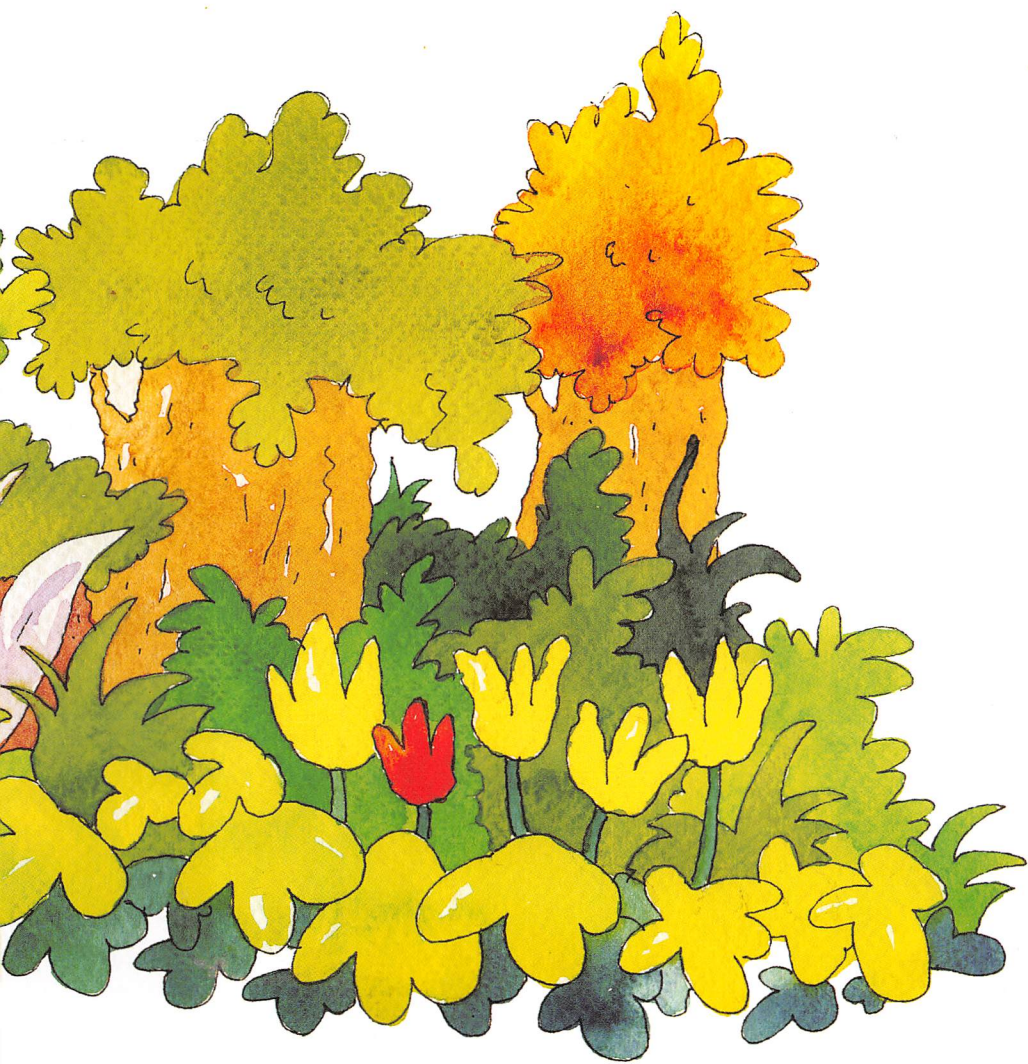




Above the earth He made the sky. In the sky He put two lights: the sun and the moon. And he told the sun to shine in the day and the moon to shine at night. Then Allah put stars in the night sky and told them to shine brightly to help travellers find their way at night. There are many stars in the sky. Yet each one is different. Some are small and some are very big. Some twinkle gently and some burn brightly. They are like road signs that guide the travelers to the right place.

After that Allah divided the dry land from the seas. He covered the land with greenery: big trees, small bushes, and colourful flowers. He told the rain to water the plants so that they might grow.



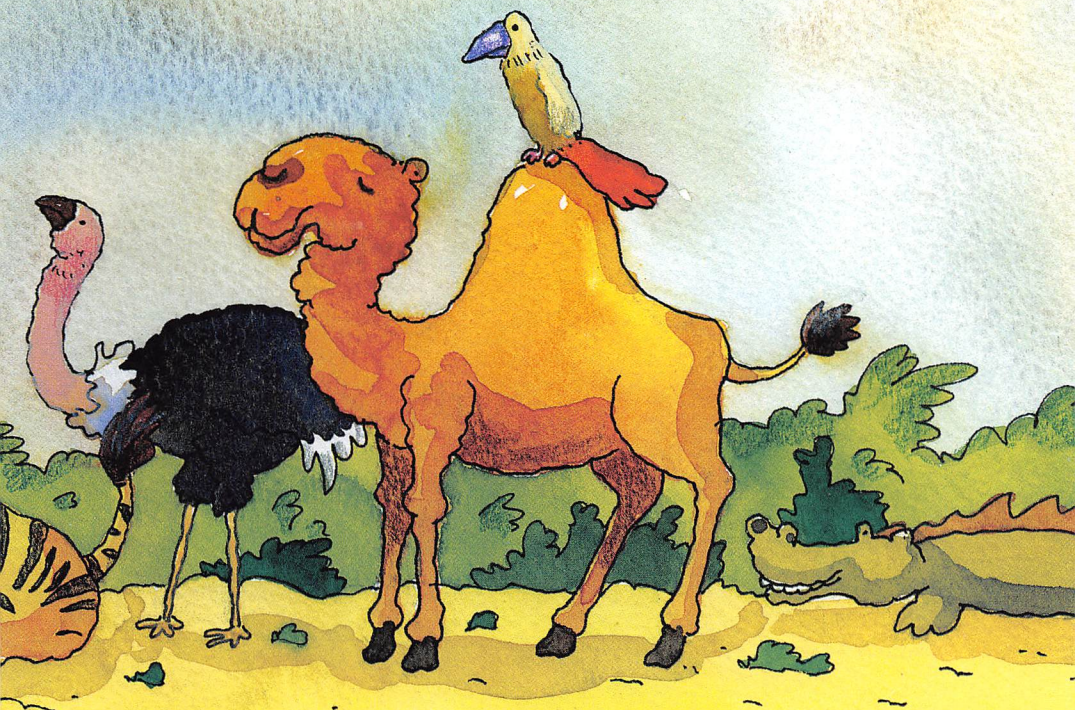


After that He made all kinds of animals: camels, horses, sheep and elephants. Then He made all kinds of birds: high-flying eagles, beautiful peacocks and sweetly singing nightingales. And He filled the seas with fish and other creatures.



The world was beautiful. The earth was green.
The sky was blue. And the seas were all shades of
green and blue.

There were many different animals on earth,
many different birds in the sky and many
different fish in the seas.




Yet Allah wanted the world to be even more beautiful.
Allah made the angels. The angels obey Allah in
everything. They are His messengers.
They carry His commands to all corners of the world.



They see to it that the whole world is running as it should: the wind blows where required, the clouds take the rain to the right spots, the rains give water to the fields and gardens.







Then out of fire without smoke
Allah created jinn. Some jinn are good
and some are bad. Some of them are
believers and some unbelievers. Finally
Allah decided to make a human being.

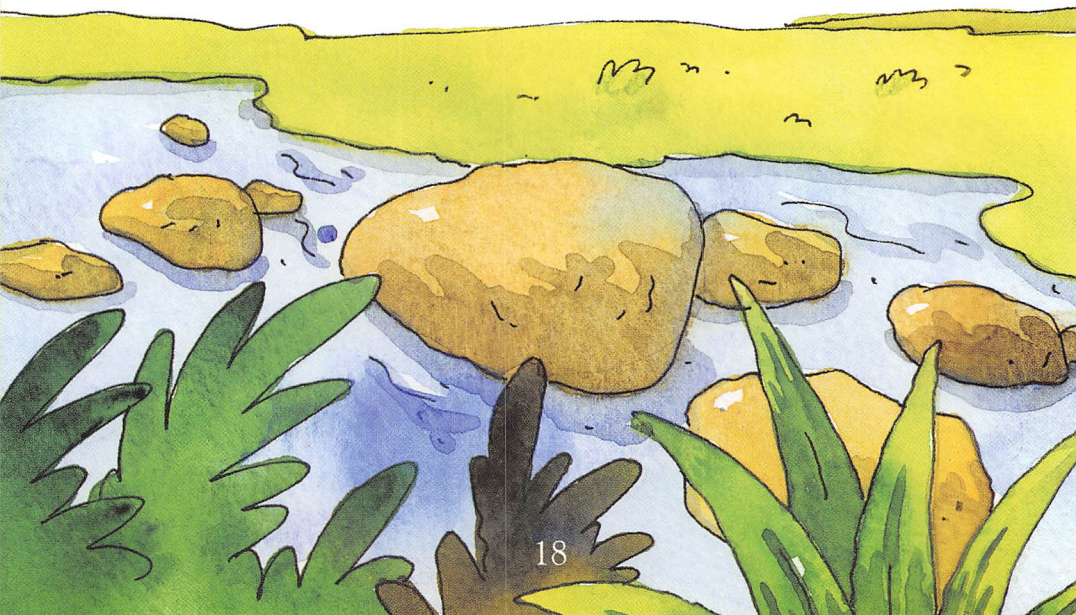
He collected every kind of soil. He mixed
it like a potter's clay. He molded it into
the shape of man and breathed His spirit
into it. He named the first man Adam ^{عليه السلام}.
Then Allah made the first woman and
named her Hawwa, or Eve.

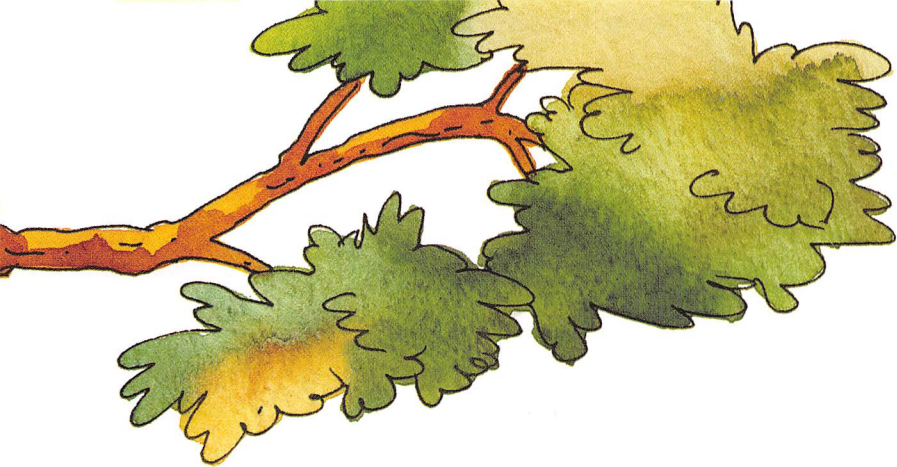
Allah made the beautiful world.
And He gave it to man to live in.



The First Man

In the beginning there was nothing. Then Allah said: “Be!” and the world was made.

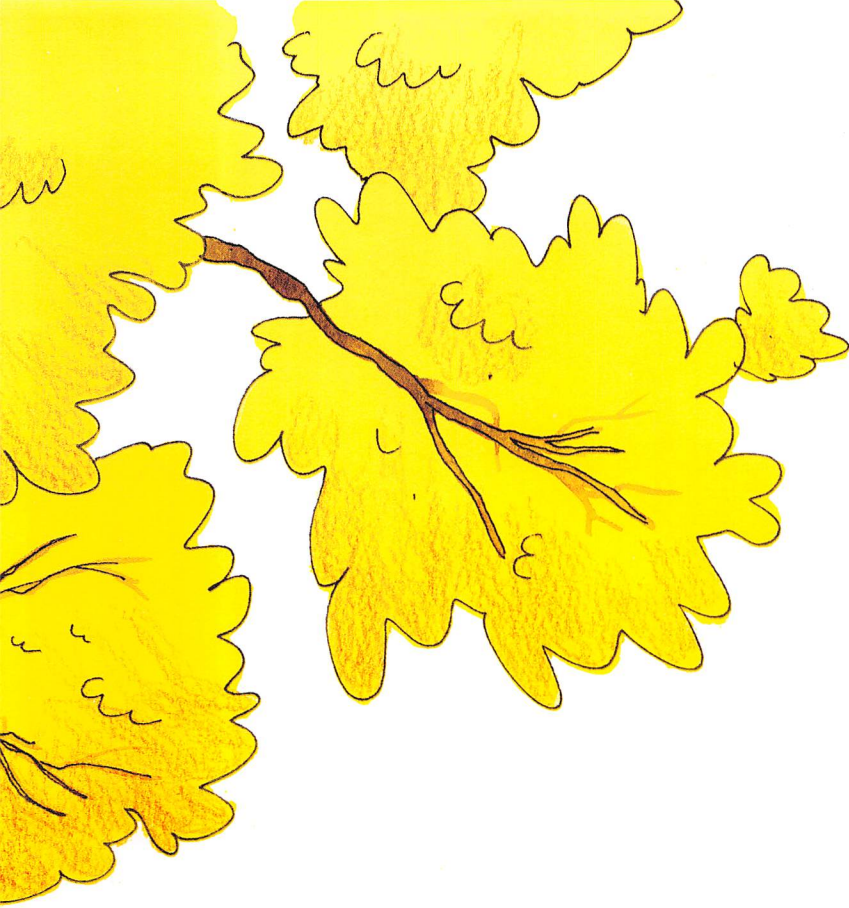




The world is like a huge machine.
It runs all the time. It never stops.
And it runs very smoothly.







Allah made angels. The angels are very powerful. What do the angels do? The angels see to it that all the commands of Allah are obeyed in every corner of the world. The angels tell the winds when to blow. They tell the clouds where to go. They tell the rain where to rain. And they record everything that is happening in the world.



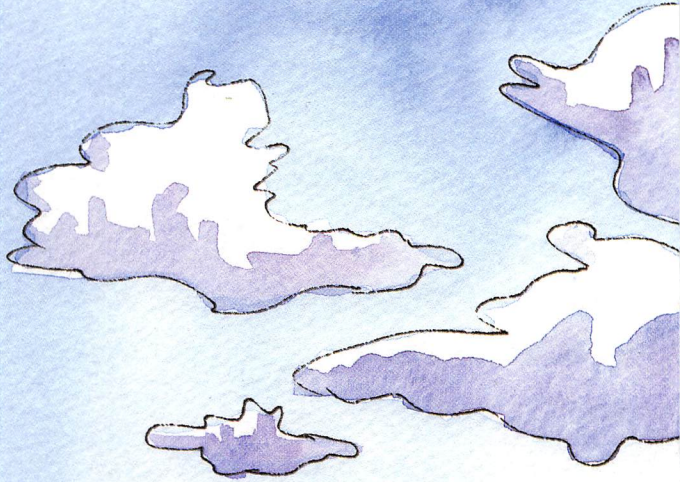
When the world was already running beautifully, Allah wanted to make a human being. So Allah collected all kinds of soil: He took dry sand and moist earth and sticky mud. He mixed them all like a potter's clay. He molded it into the shape of man.

Finally He breathed His spirit into it. He named the first man Adam عليه السلام. Then He made the first woman. He called her Hawwa or Eve. Allah loved Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa. He gave them many gifts. He gave them eyes to see the beautiful world. He gave them ears to hear the birds sing. He gave them voice so that they may talk to each other. And He gave them mind to understand what is good and what is bad.

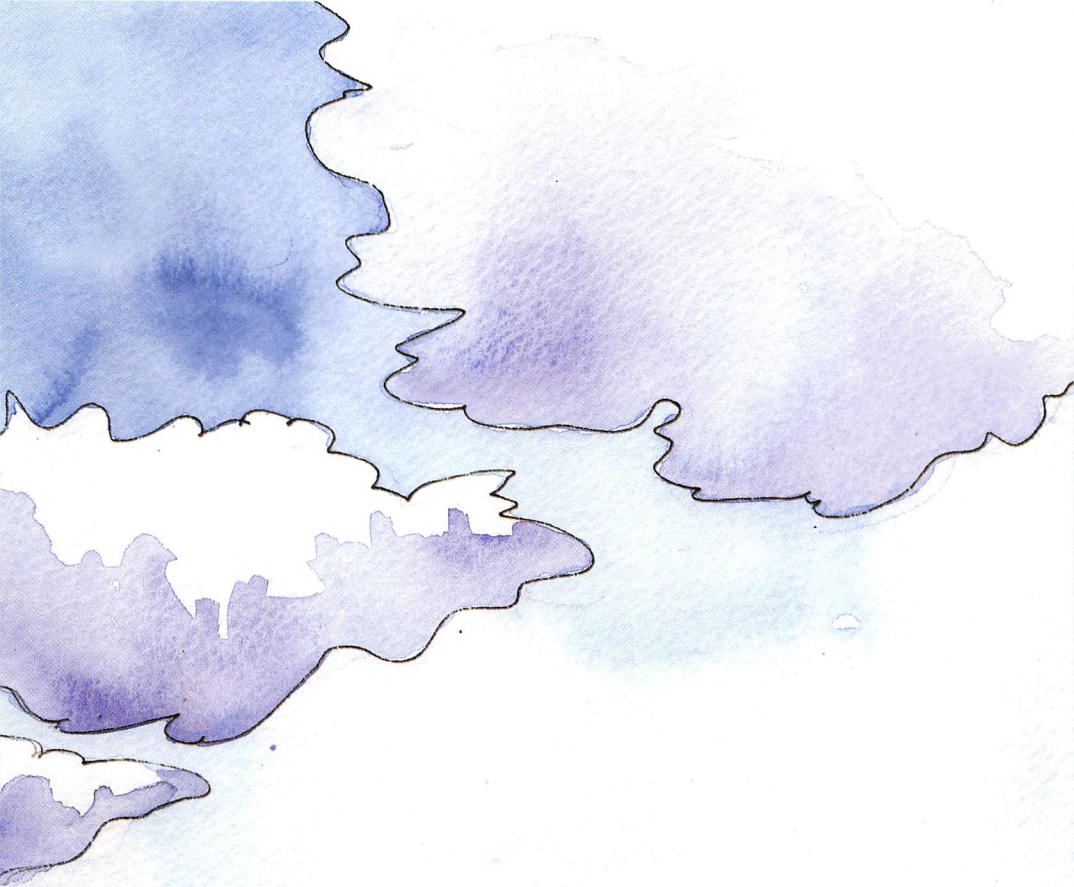
Allah wanted Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa to live on the earth. There was one part of the earth, which was more beautiful than the rest. It was called the Garden of Paradise. Allah wanted Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa to live in this beautiful garden.



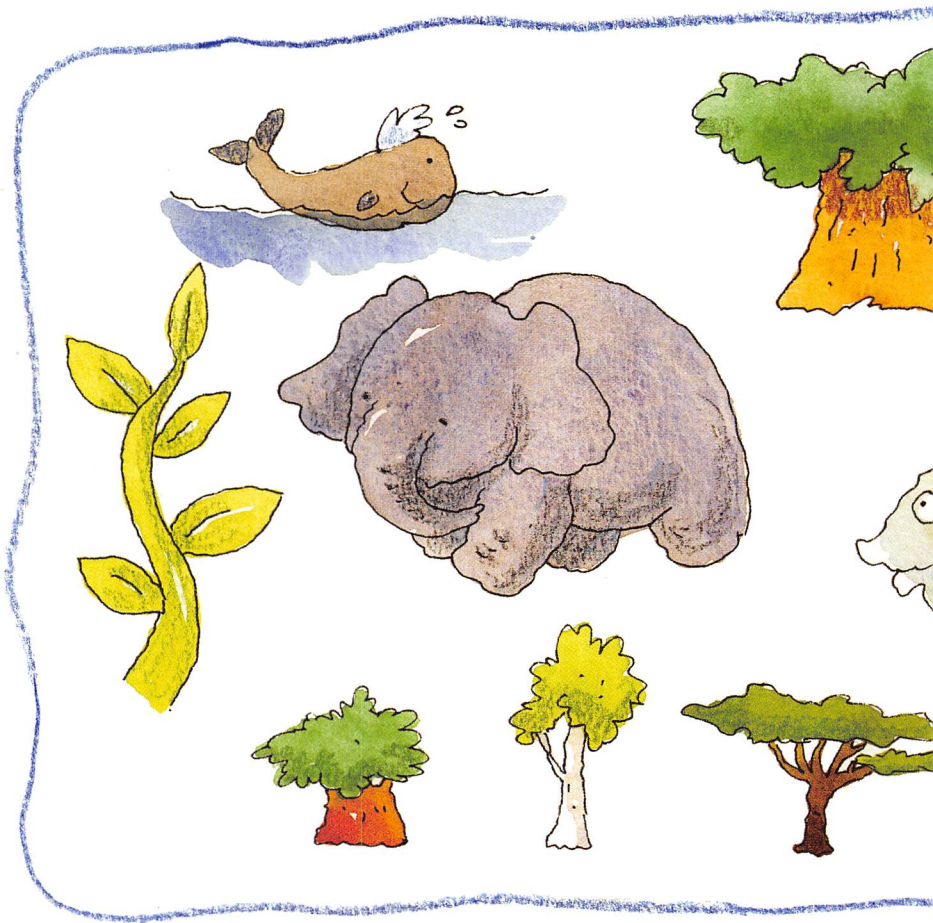
The Pride of Iblis



Allah made Adam and Hawwa. Then He called the angels and said that He had made a man. Who was called Adam ^{عليه السلام}. And He had made a woman. Who was called Hawwa or Eve, and He wanted them to live on earth.



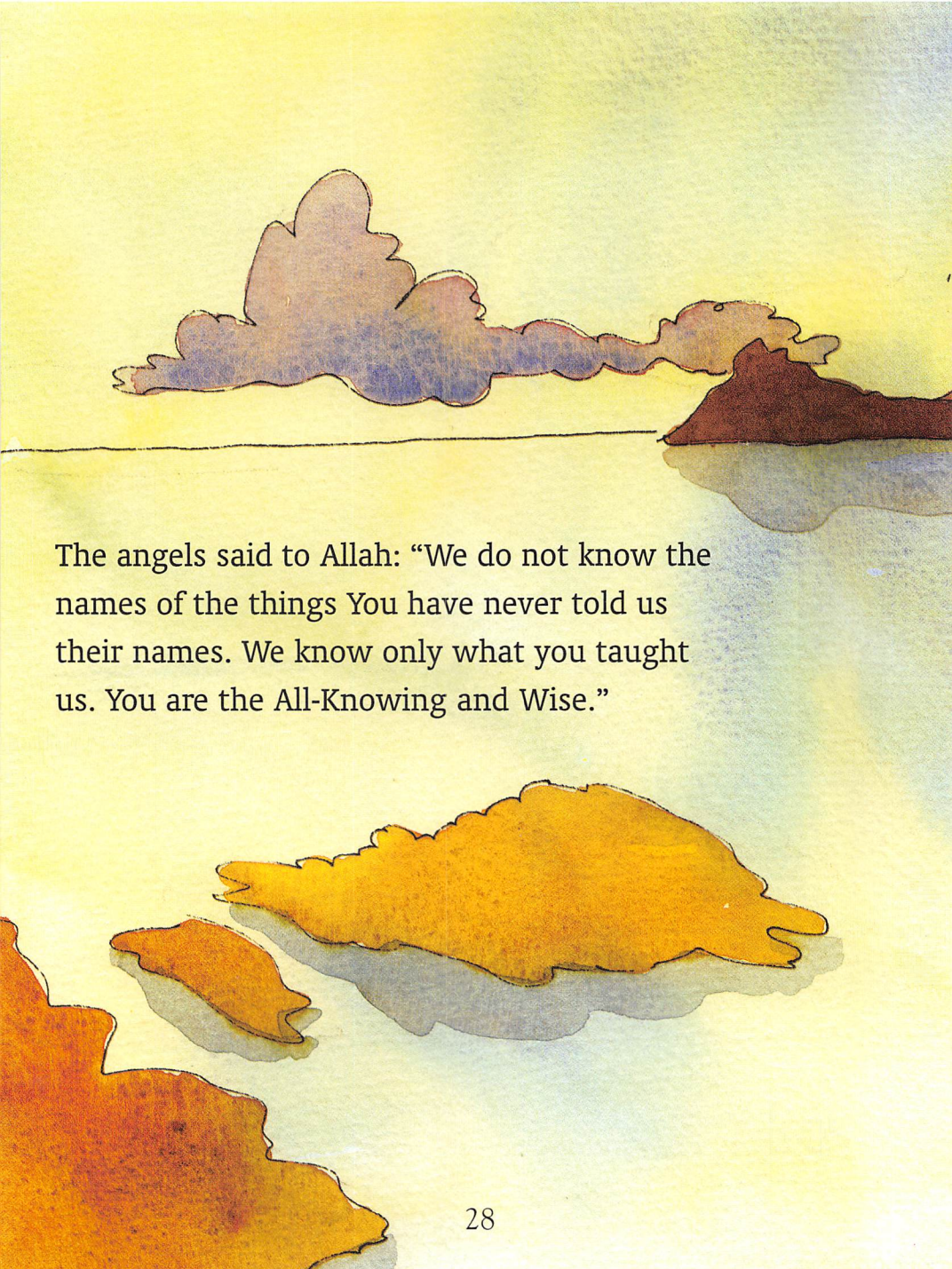
The angels were very surprised. Men will spoil the earth.
They will destroy it. They will fill it with evil and fighting.



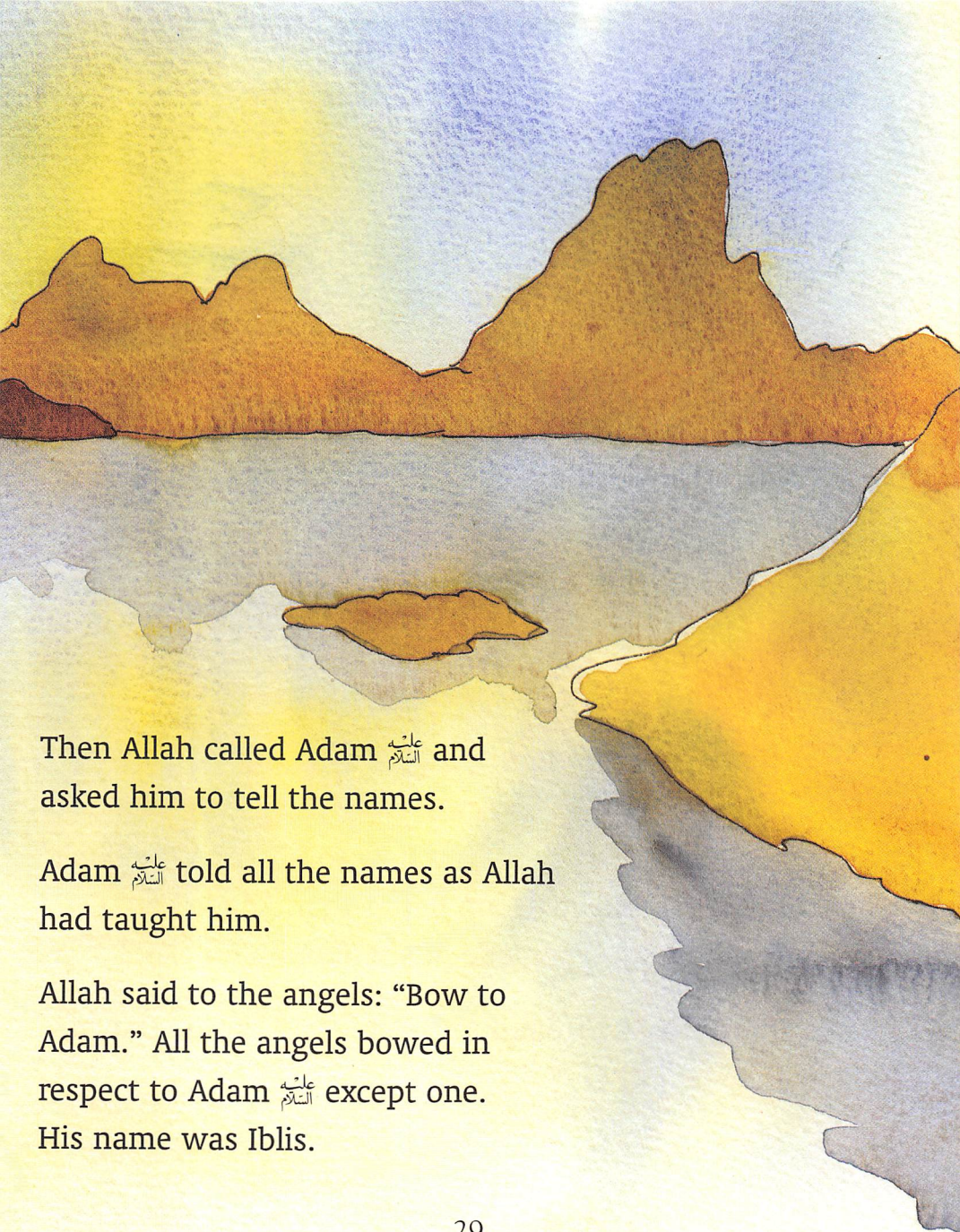
But Allah is All-Knowing and All-Wise. He knows all the secrets of heavens and earth. He has made everything and knows the true name of every single thing He has made. Therefore, Allah taught Adam ﷺ the names of all things.



Allah called the angels. Then He asked the angels to tell Him the names of all things. But the angels did not know the names of all the things.



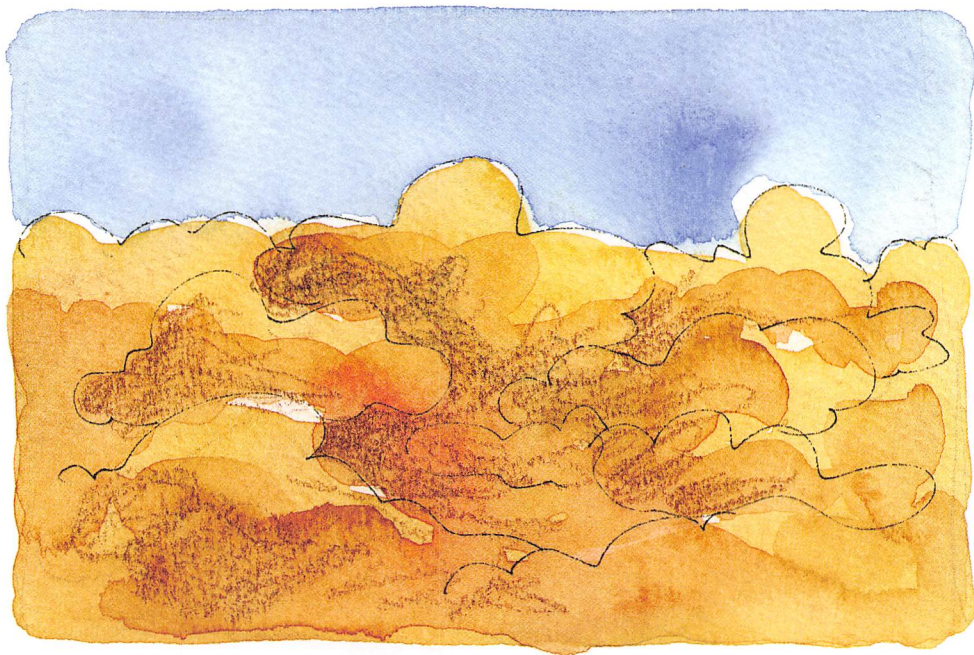
The angels said to Allah: “We do not know the names of the things You have never told us their names. We know only what you taught us. You are the All-Knowing and Wise.”



Then Allah called Adam عليه السلام and asked him to tell the names.

Adam عليه السلام told all the names as Allah had taught him.

Allah said to the angels: "Bow to Adam." All the angels bowed in respect to Adam عليه السلام except one. His name was Iblis.

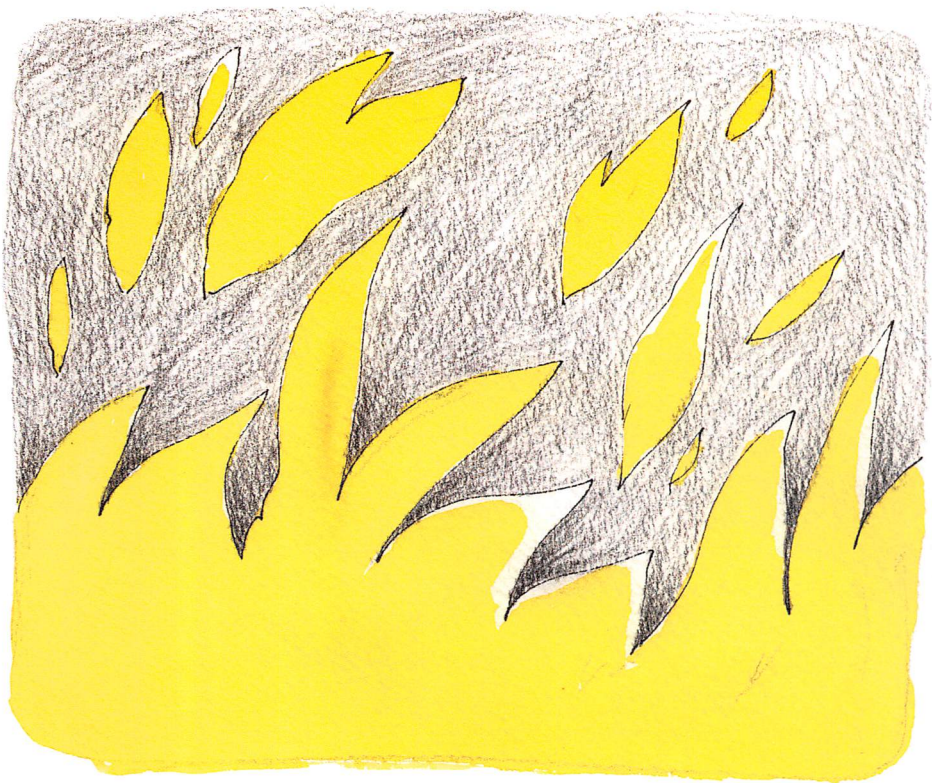


Allah asked Iblis: "Why don't you bow to Adam? Why don't you obey me?" Iblis said: "I am better than Adam. You made me of fire. But You made Adam of ordinary clay."

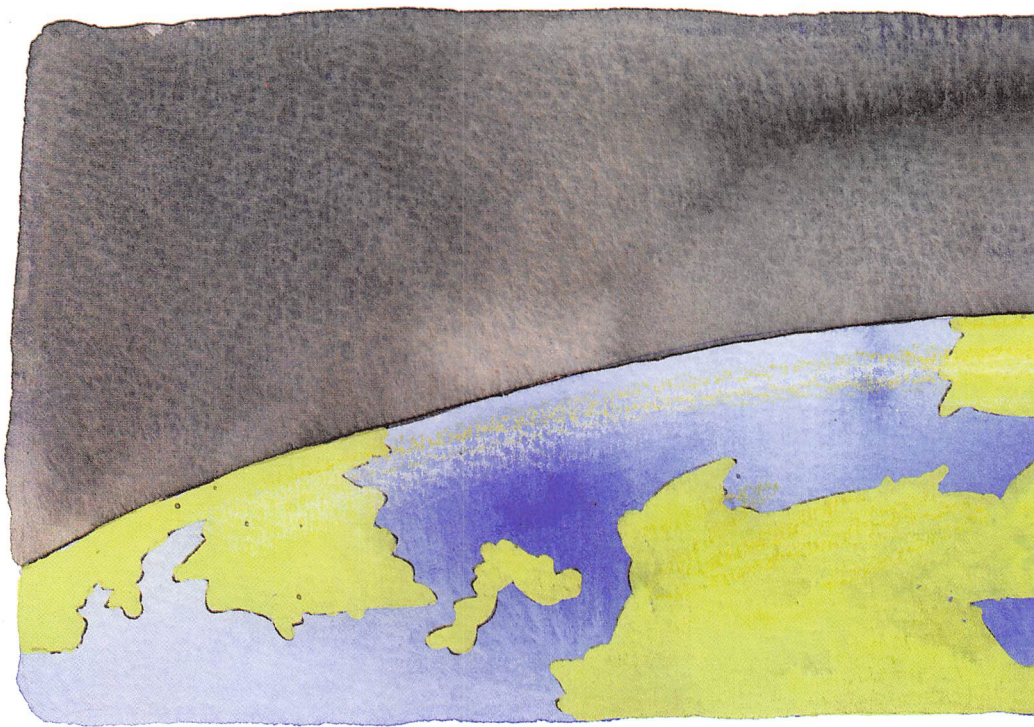
Allah said: "Get away from here. I curse you till the Day of Judgement!"

“Give me respite till the Day of Judgement,” begged Iblis. Iblis said, “I will tempt people to sin. And lead them away from the right path.”

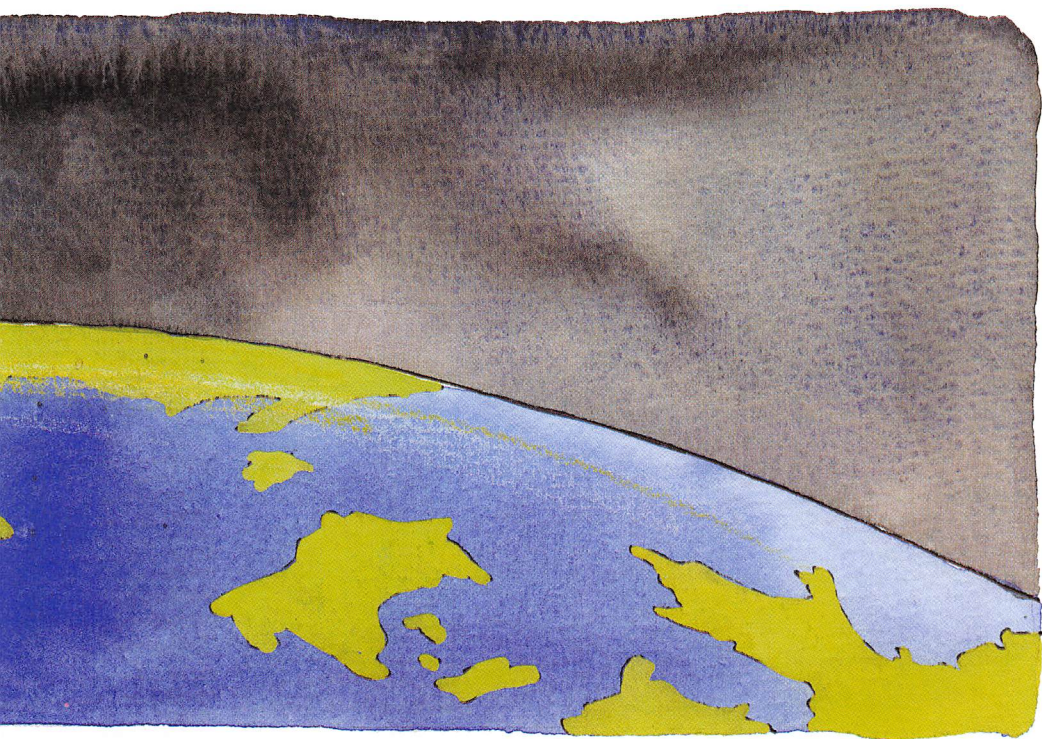
Allah said: “You can tempt people as much as you want. True believers will never listen to you.



They will never get tempted. I will always guide them to do what is right. You will have no power over them.”



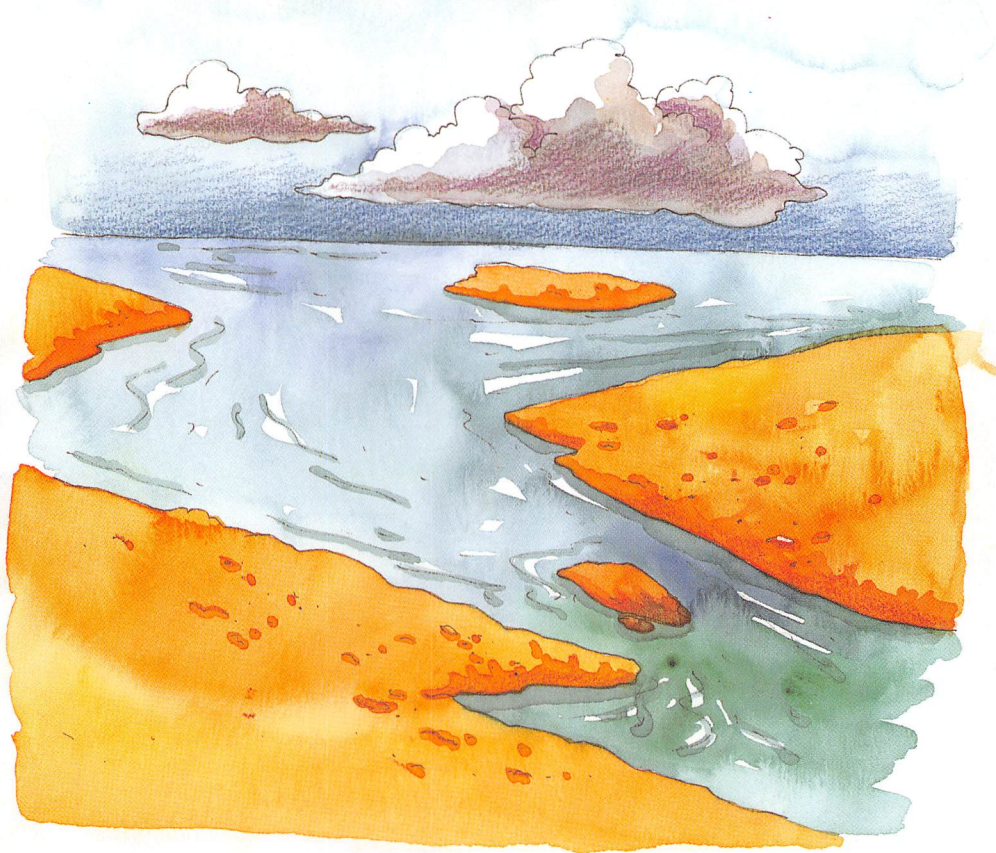
Allah is the Best Guide.
He is the Protector.
He guides us to the straight path.
He never lets us go astray.



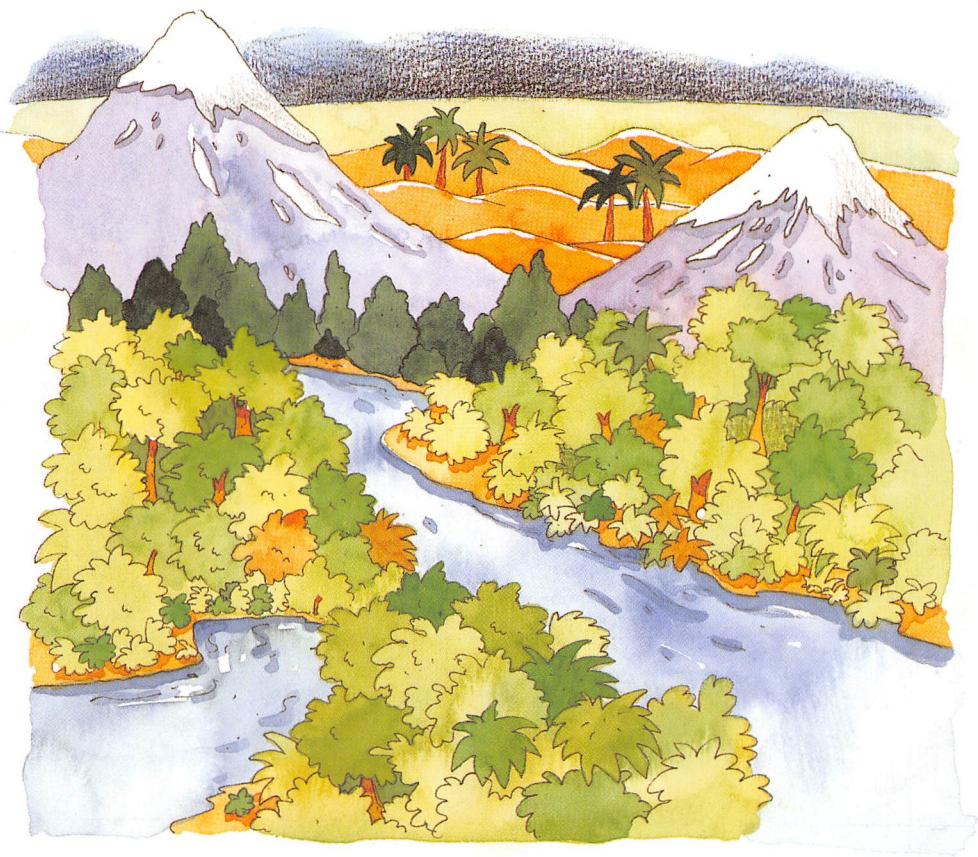


Our World

Allah made the world. He made the land, the sky and the seas. He made the land for us and it became our home.

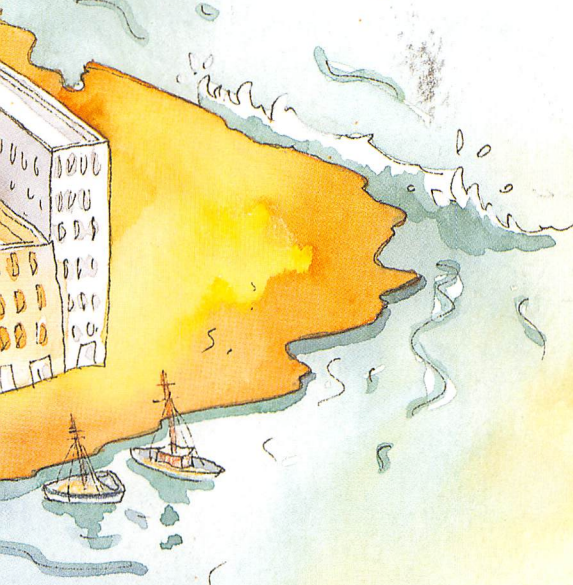


There are high mountains and deep valleys.
There are green forests and dry deserts.
There are lakes and rivers. Allah made them all.





Some people live in the cities. Some people live in the villages. Some people live in tents in the desert. The sea and the land meet on a beach. The waves run up the beach again and again. They look frightening and make lots of noise. But Allah does not want us to be afraid. Allah controls the seas.



Sometimes there is a storm at sea.
High waves roll everywhere.
The ships and the boats get tossed around.
Allah looks after them.
They reach their port safely.





Allah has made the sky above our heads.
In the daytime the sky is blue.
The sun shines and gives us light.
At night the sky gets dark.
The moon shines and the stars twinkle.



Sometimes the wind brings the clouds. They cover the sun and we cannot see it. When there are a lot of clouds, it starts to rain. The rain washes the flowers and the trees. The air becomes clean and bright. Everything starts shining: the houses, the streets and the cars.



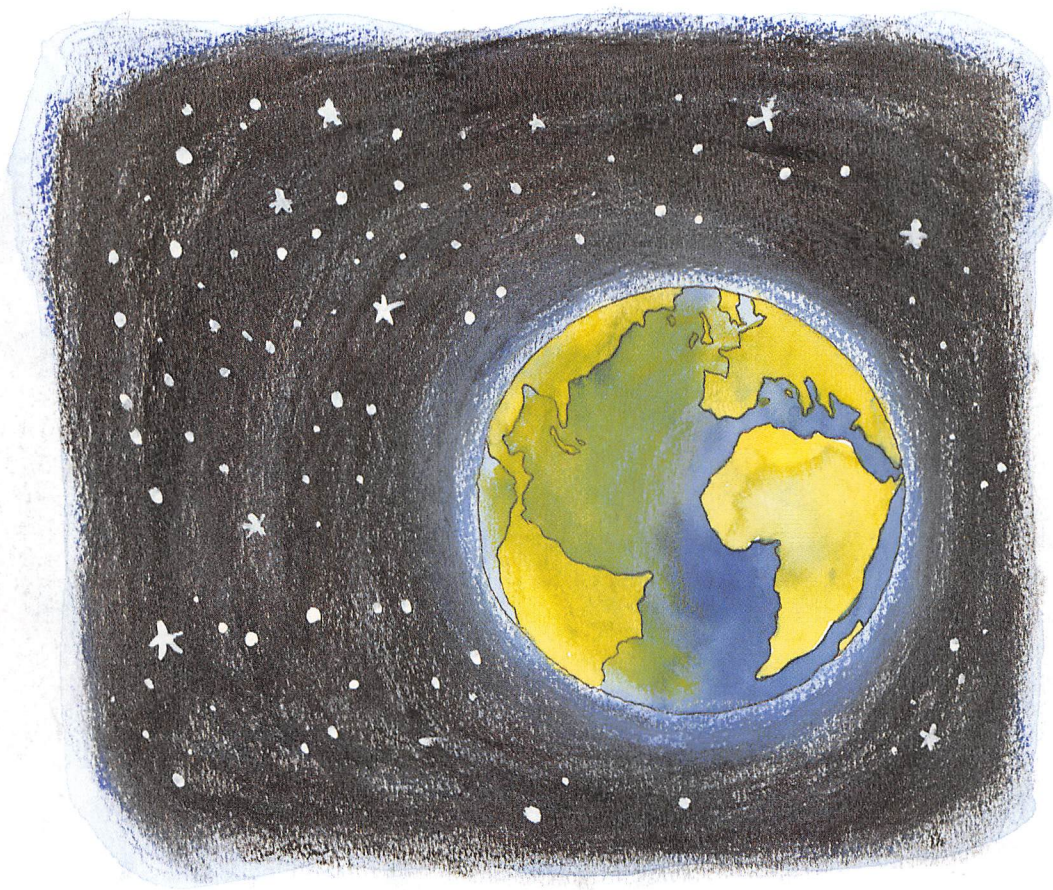
Allah has made the world for us.

We live here.

We play here.

We go to school.

Allah loves us and wants us to be happy.







Allah made them All

Allah has made all the animals, birds, insects and fish.
He has made them all. Some fly. Some swim.
Some creep on their tummies. Some walk on two legs.
And some walk on four legs.





Allah has made fish. Some fish live in the lakes.
Some fish live in the rivers. And some live in the seas.

In the sea there are big whales. There are also dangerous
sharks and friendly dolphins. There are strange looking
octopuses and beautiful starfish. Allah has taught them
all how to swim in the sea.



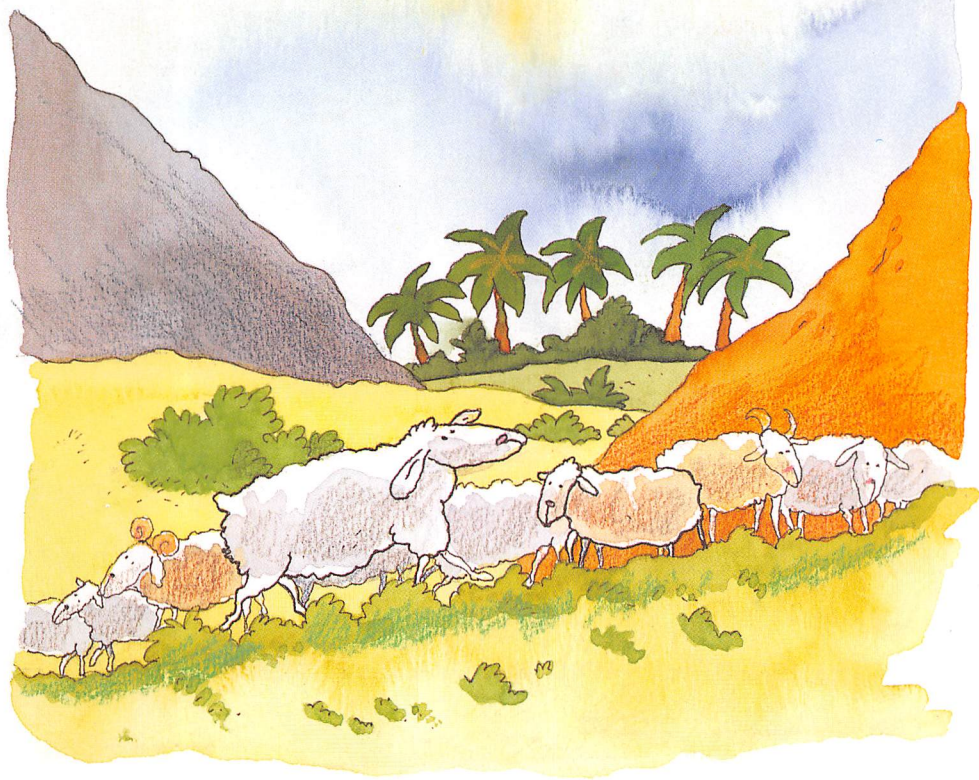


Allah has made the birds. He made them all: the small sparrows and the huge eagles. All birds have wings. Some birds fly high in the sky. Allah has taught the birds how to fly so high.

Allah has made cows and goats. They give us milk. We drink milk and grow healthy and strong. We make butter, yogurt and cheese from milk.



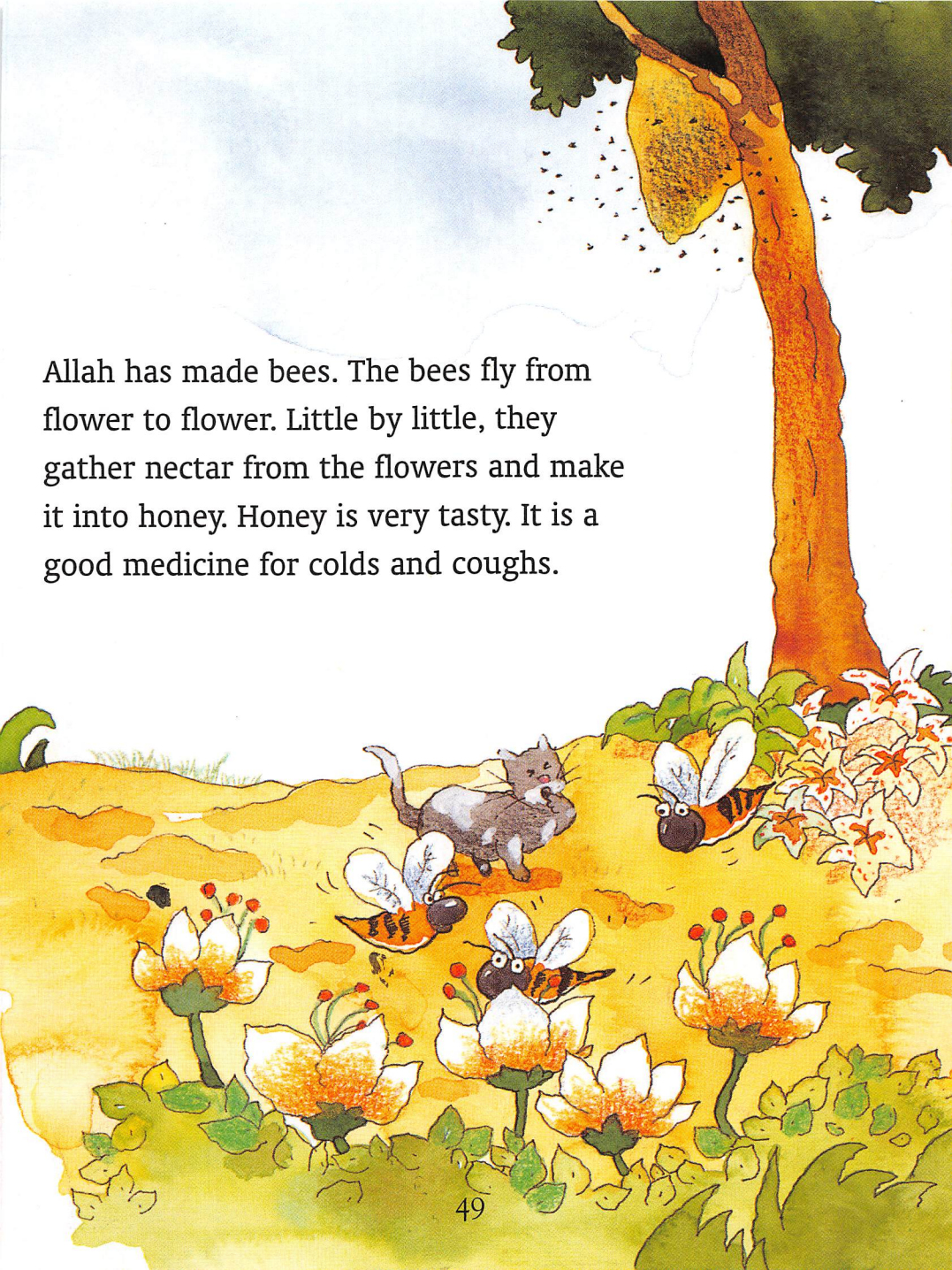
Allah has made sheep. The sheep are covered with woolly coats. From their wool we make sweaters, mufflers and blankets. They keep us warm on cold days.





Allah has made spiders. Allah has taught the spiders how to weave webs. The spiders are small but they weave huge webs. A tiny spider's web can block a large window. It can even block a door.

Allah has made bees. The bees fly from flower to flower. Little by little, they gather nectar from the flowers and make it into honey. Honey is very tasty. It is a good medicine for colds and coughs.



Allah has made horses and donkeys and camels.
They are strong. They help us carry heavy things from
place to place. In olden times there were no cars.
People would ride horses or donkeys. In the desert,
even today, people travel on camels.

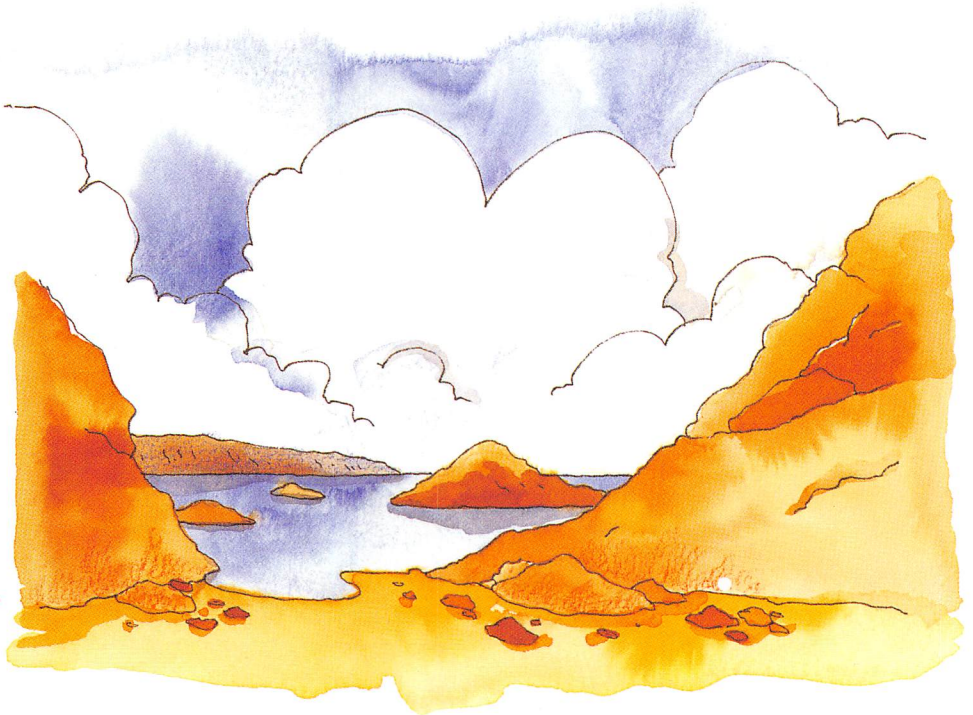


Allah has made all the animals, birds,
insects and fish. They all belong to
Allah. Allah is great.

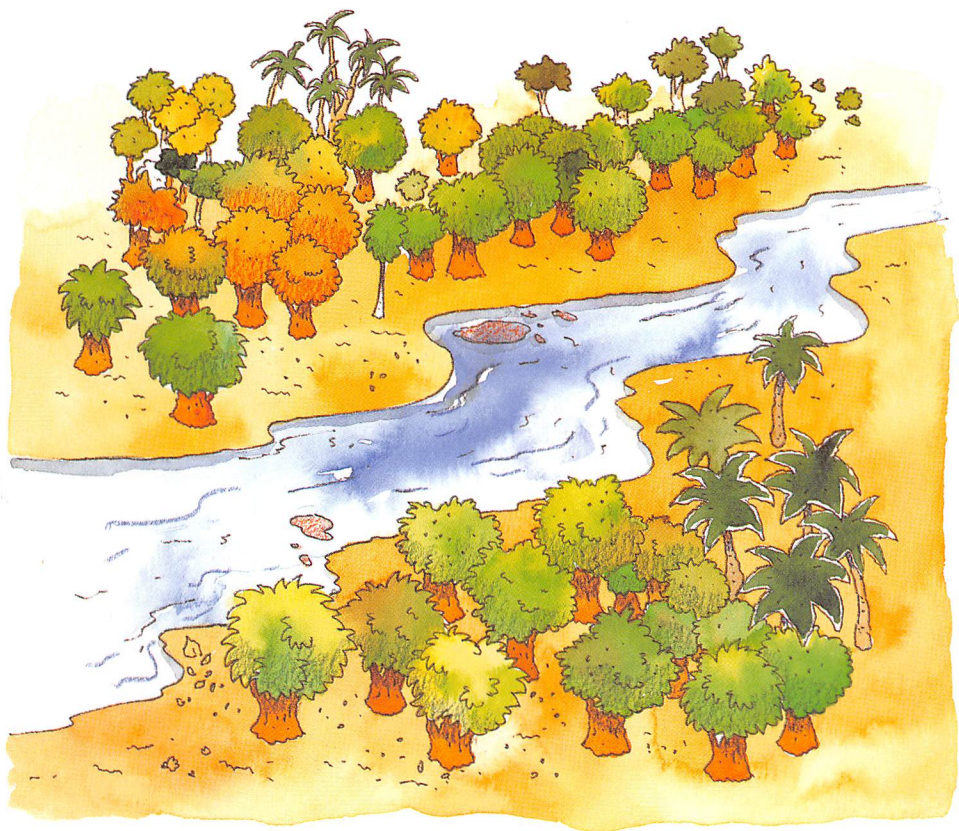


The First Prophet, the First Man

It happened one day, a long time ago.
On that day, Allah made up His mind to make the world.
He made the land, the seas and the sky.



There were trees and flowers growing everywhere.
There were beautiful rivers.
There was blue sky above.
But there were no people.
Allah looked at the land.
He looked at the seas.



Then he looked at the sky.
The beautiful land looked empty.
Allah took some clay and made a man.
He called him Adam ^{عليه السلام}. Allah also made a woman.



He called her Hawwa (or Eve). Adam ^{عليه السلام} and Hawwa lived in a beautiful garden. There were many fruit trees in the garden. When Adam ^{عليه السلام} and Hawwa were hungry they would eat the tasty fruit.



In the middle of the garden there was one huge tree. It was different from other trees. Its fruit were bigger and more beautiful than fruit on other trees.



Allah told Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa not to go near this tree.
Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa were very happy in the garden.



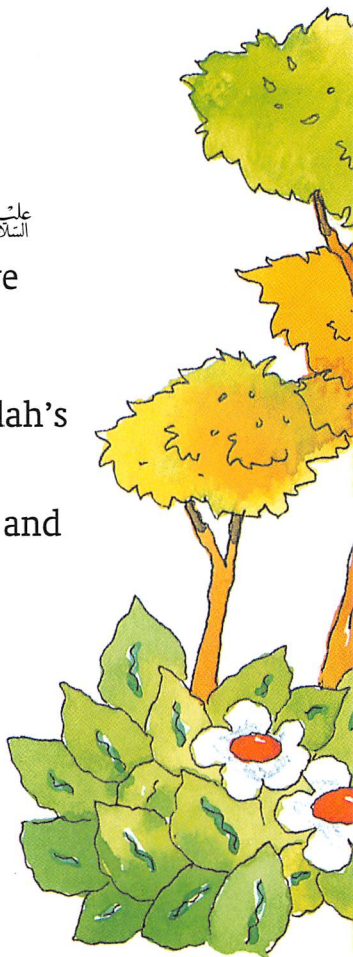
They would pluck the fruit from the trees and eat when hungry. But they never touched the particular tree in the garden.

In the same garden there lived a Satan. The Satan was very jealous of Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa.

He wanted Allah to be angry with Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa. He did not want them to live happily in the beautiful garden.

But Satan deceived them to do against Allah's orders by eating from a forbidden tree. After eating the fruit from the tree Adam and Hawwa became afraid.

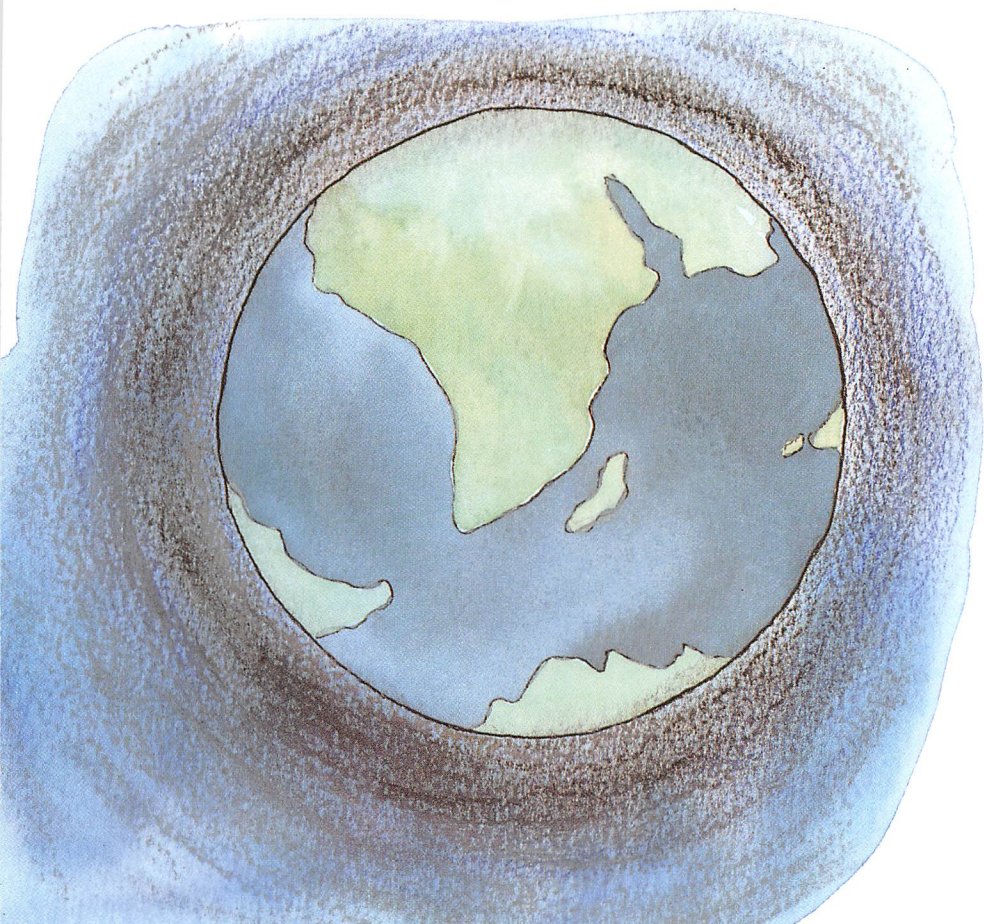
They did not listen to Allah. They ate the fruit from the tree. They would be punished.





Allah was very angry. But He loved Adam ^{عليه السلام} and Hawwa. He did not want to punish them too much. He ordered them to leave the garden and go down and stay on earth.



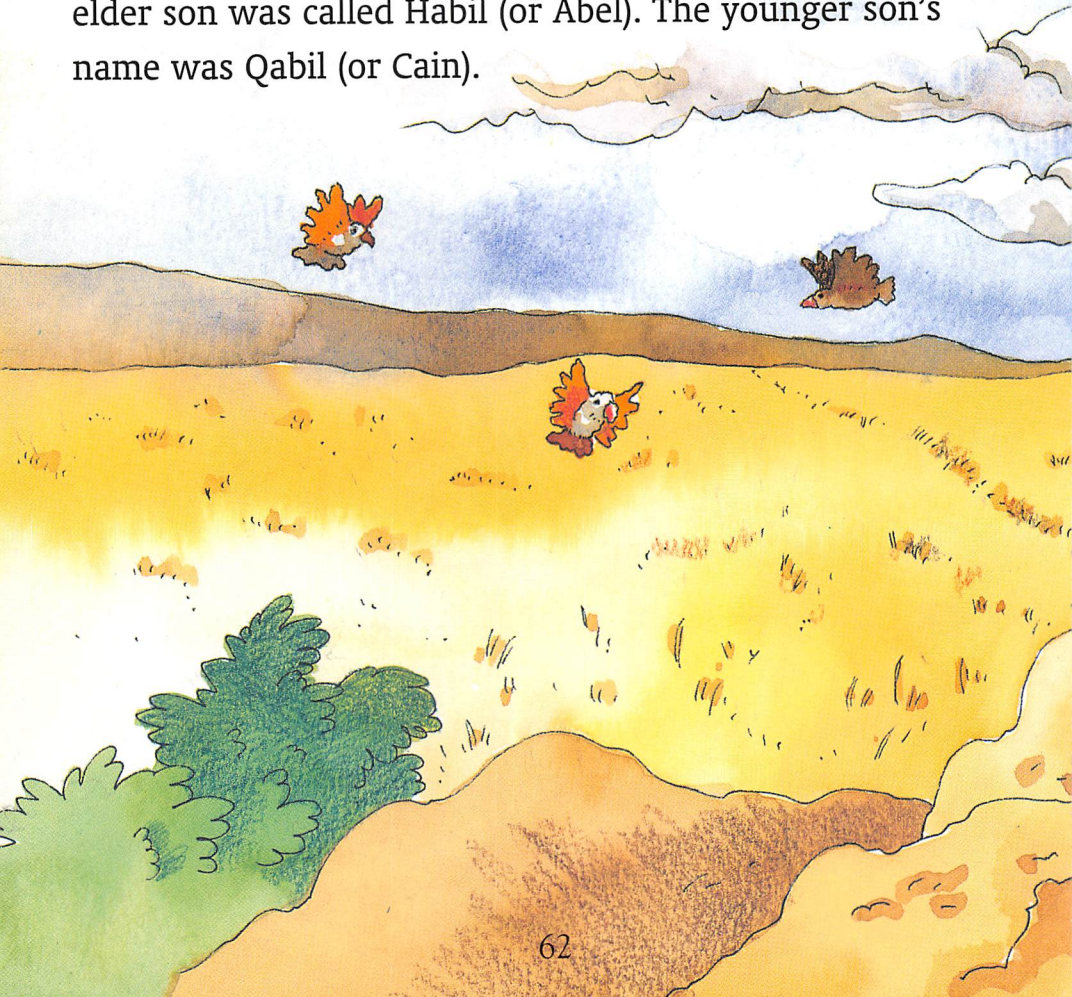


The story of the Prophet Adam عليه السلام teaches us that we have all been created by Allah, and that therefore, we are all equal. We should, then, respect each and every human being and never look down on others, or insult people. After all, we are all the children of one forefather—the Prophet Adam عليه السلام.



The Two Brothers

The Prophet Adam and his wife Hawwa had two sons. The elder son was called Habil (or Abel). The younger son's name was Qabil (or Cain).



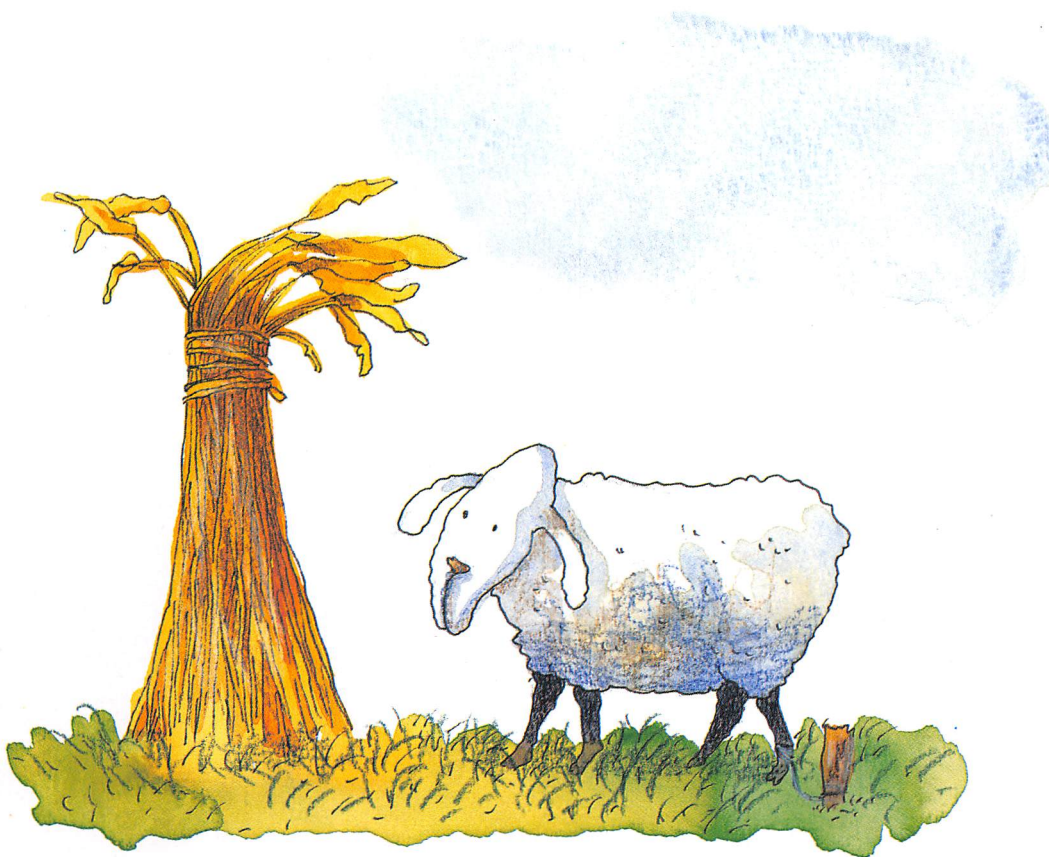
Habil was a shepherd.
Qabil was a farmer.



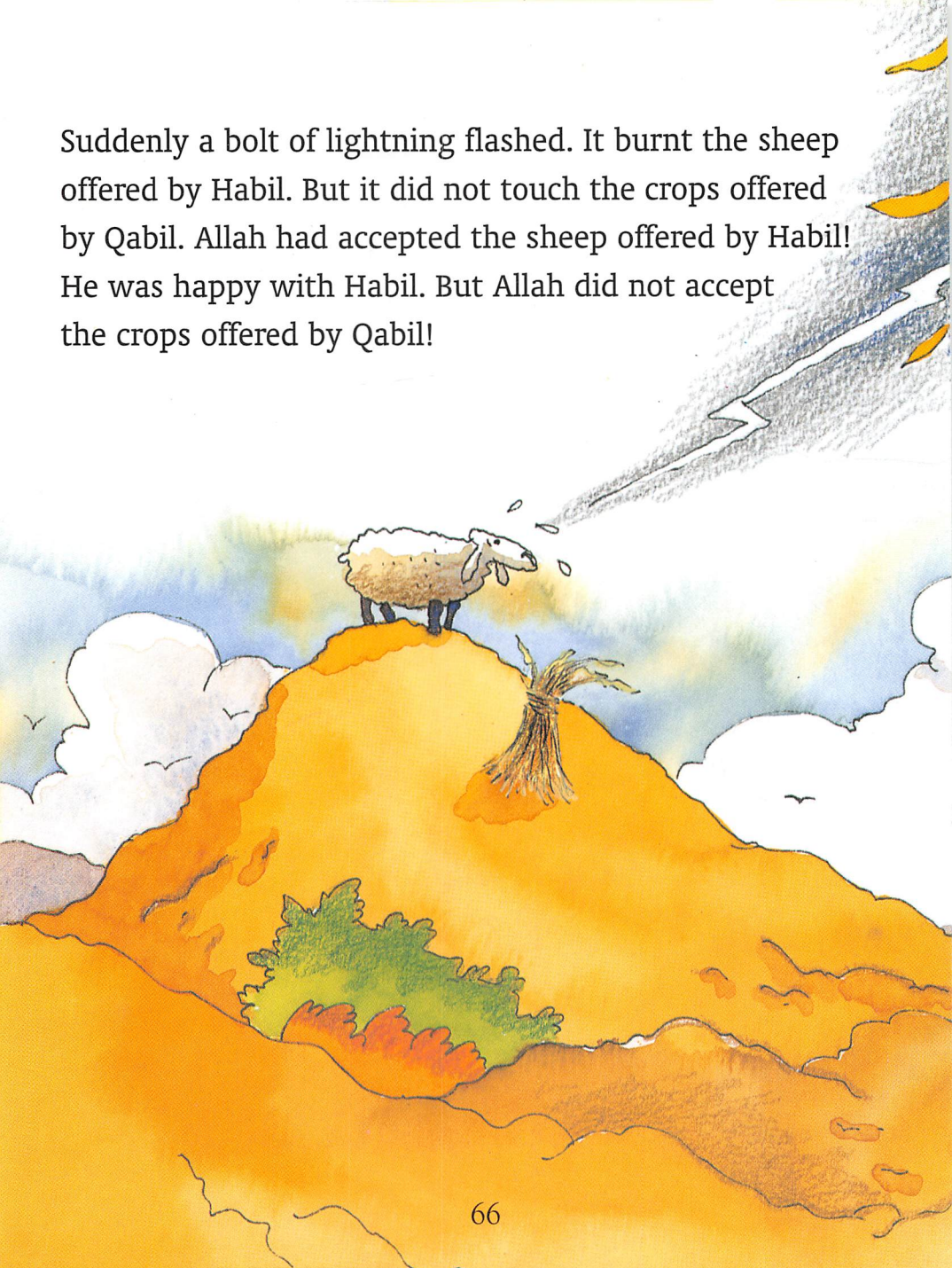
In olden times people used to offer sacrifices to Allah. They would put the best thing they had in a special place. If Allah were happy with them then He would send fire from the sky. The fire would burn the offering.

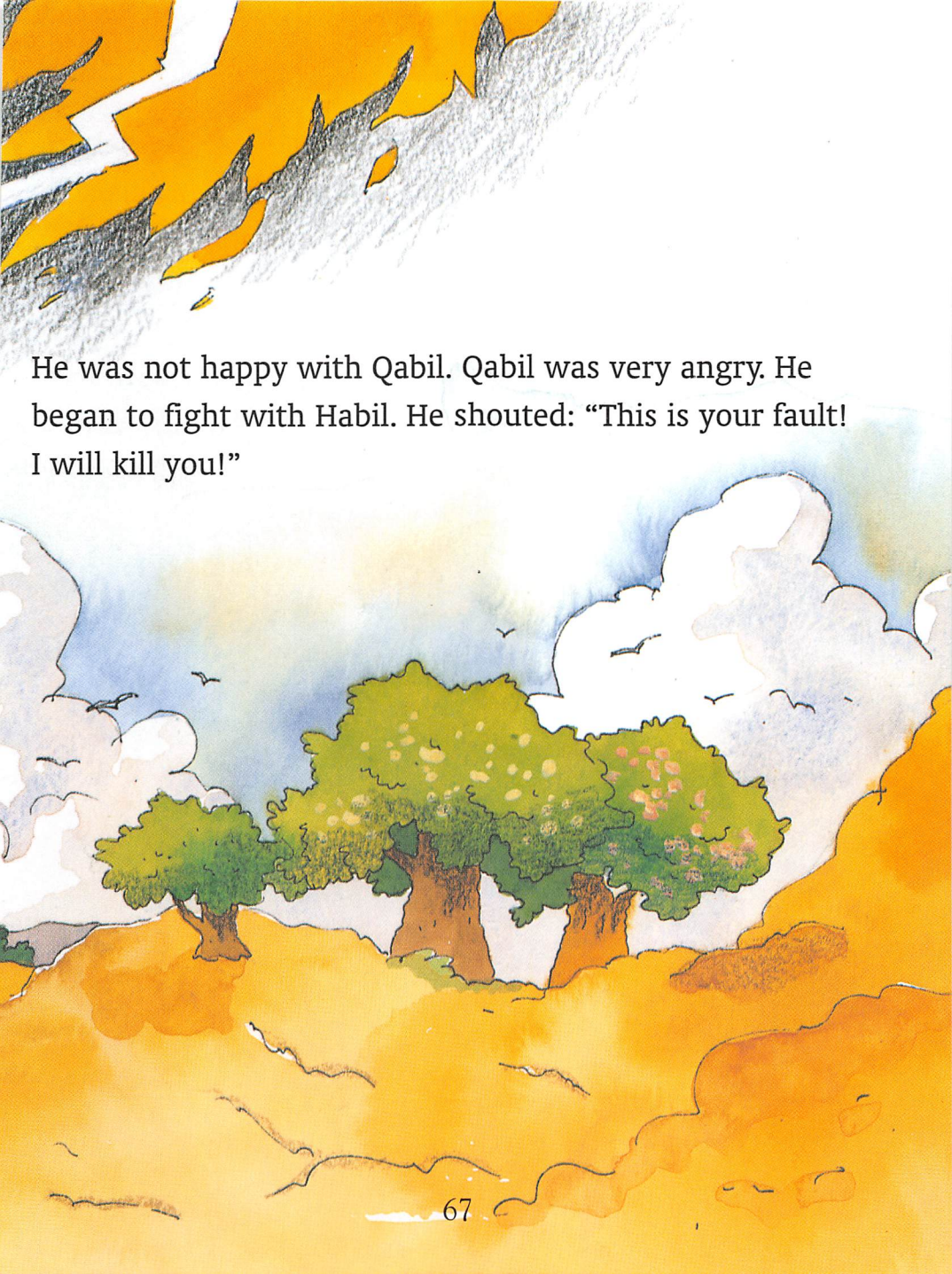


Habil and Qabil wanted to offer a sacrifice to Allah. Habil chose a sheep for Allah. Qabil brought his crops. The sheep and the crops were put on a mountaintop.



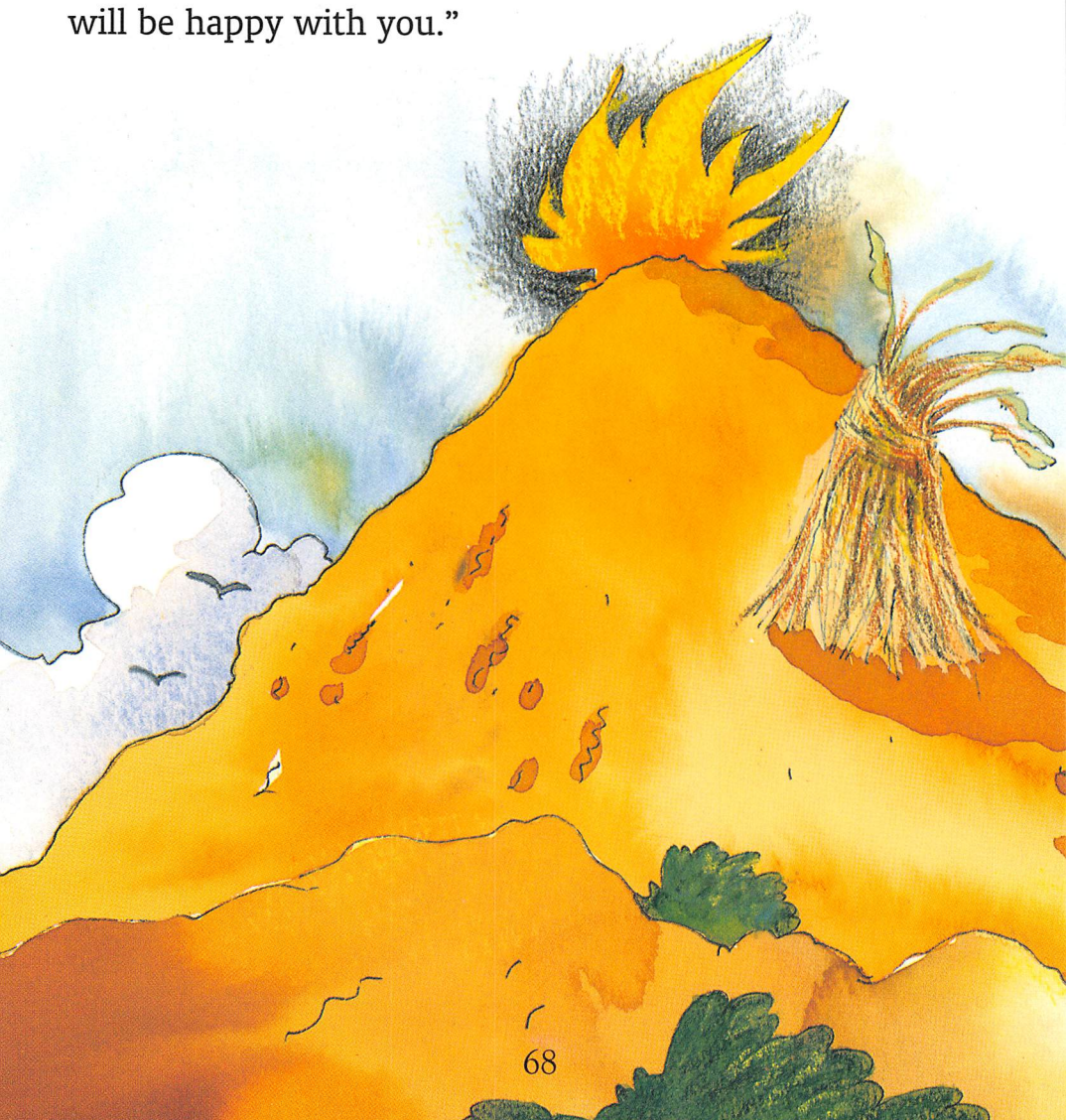
Suddenly a bolt of lightning flashed. It burnt the sheep offered by Habil. But it did not touch the crops offered by Qabil. Allah had accepted the sheep offered by Habil! He was happy with Habil. But Allah did not accept the crops offered by Qabil!



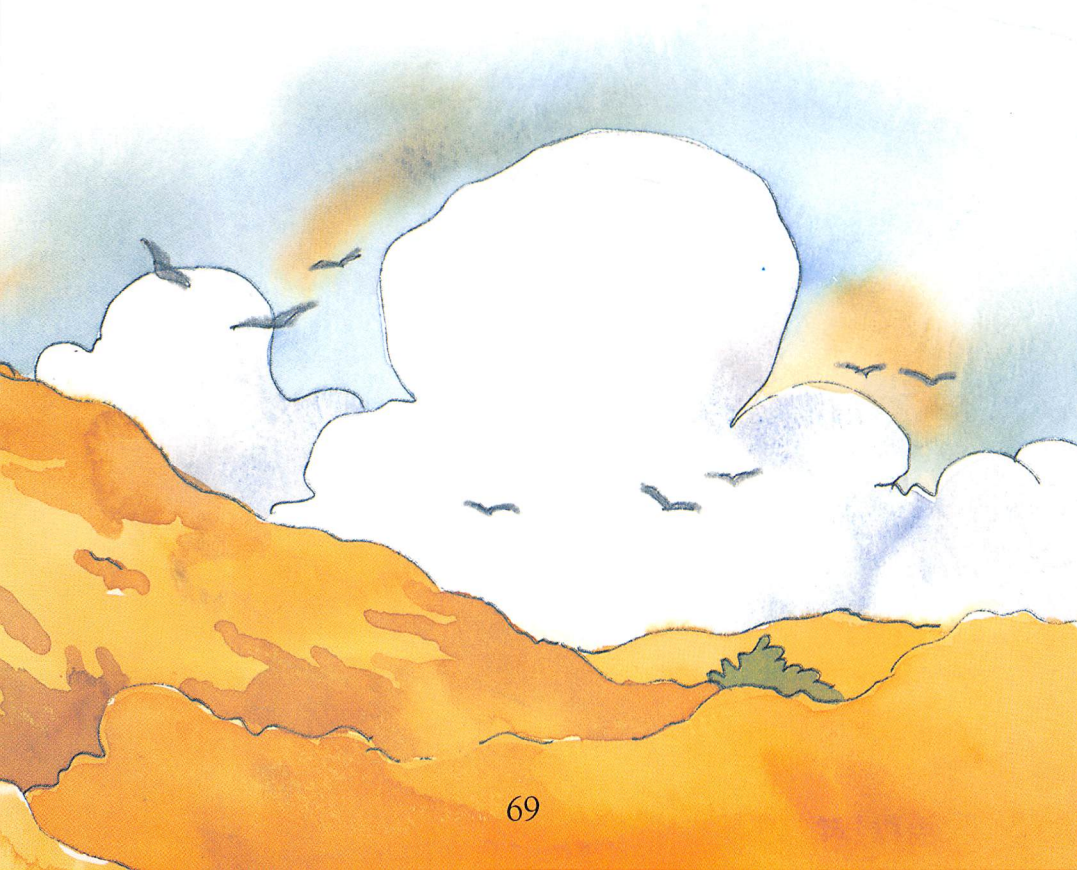


He was not happy with Qabil. Qabil was very angry. He began to fight with Habil. He shouted: "This is your fault! I will kill you!"

Habil loved Allah very much. He always had fear of Allah in his heart. Habil said to Qabil: "You are not afraid of Allah. How can Allah accept your sacrifice? Fear Allah and Allah will be happy with you."



Qabil's face darkened with anger and his heart became hardened: "No," he cried. "I will kill you!" At this threat from his elder brother, Habil did not shout back. He just said calmly: "Even if you raise your hand to kill me, I will not fight back, for I fear Allah, the Lord of the Worlds." Qabil was jealous of his brother. He did not listen to him. He began to fight with him and killed him.



Then Qabil became ashamed. He started to cry. He called out to Allah for help. Allah sent a black raven. The raven scratched the ground and showed Qabil how to bury his brother.

Allah is happy with people who fear Him. Allah does not like it when we fight and harm others.





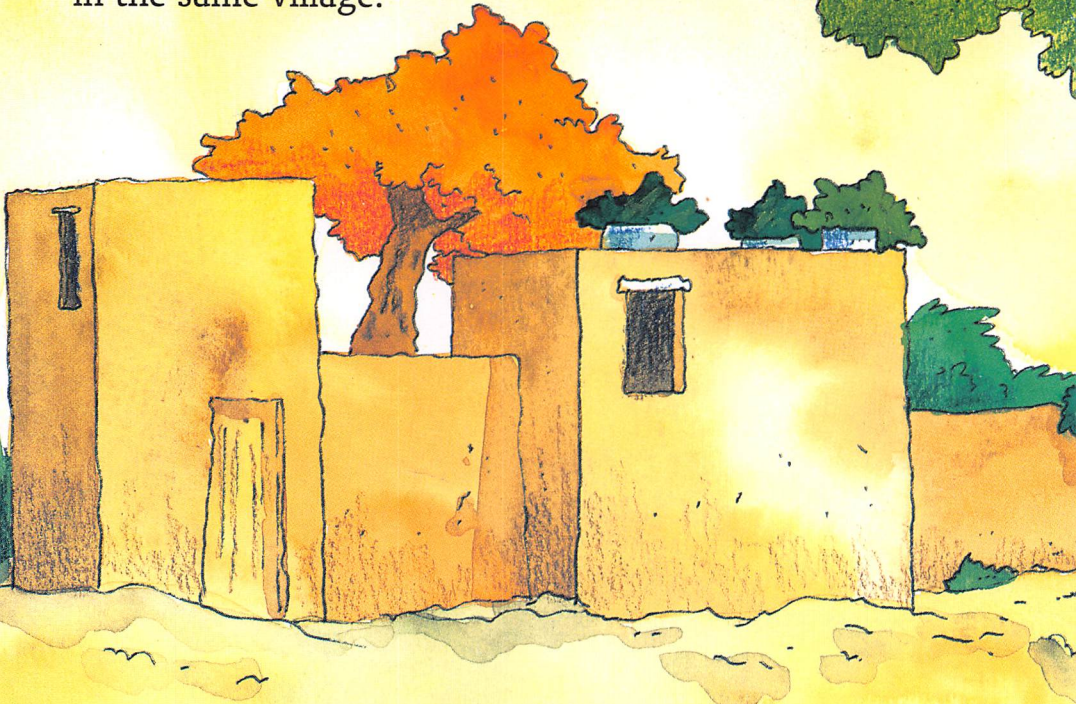
The moral of this story is that two believers should never fight with each other. Even if one of them is bent on fighting, the other one, like the gentle and obedient Habil, should never fight back.



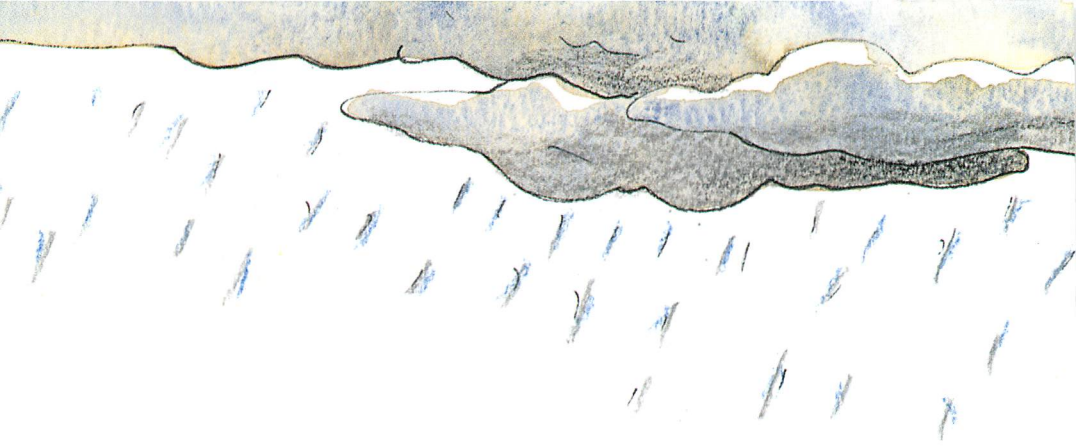
The Ark of Nuh

At long time ago, there lived a very good man.
His name was the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام. He loved Allah
very much and Allah loved him.

The Prophet Nuh عليه السلام lived in a village.
There were many more people living
in the same village.



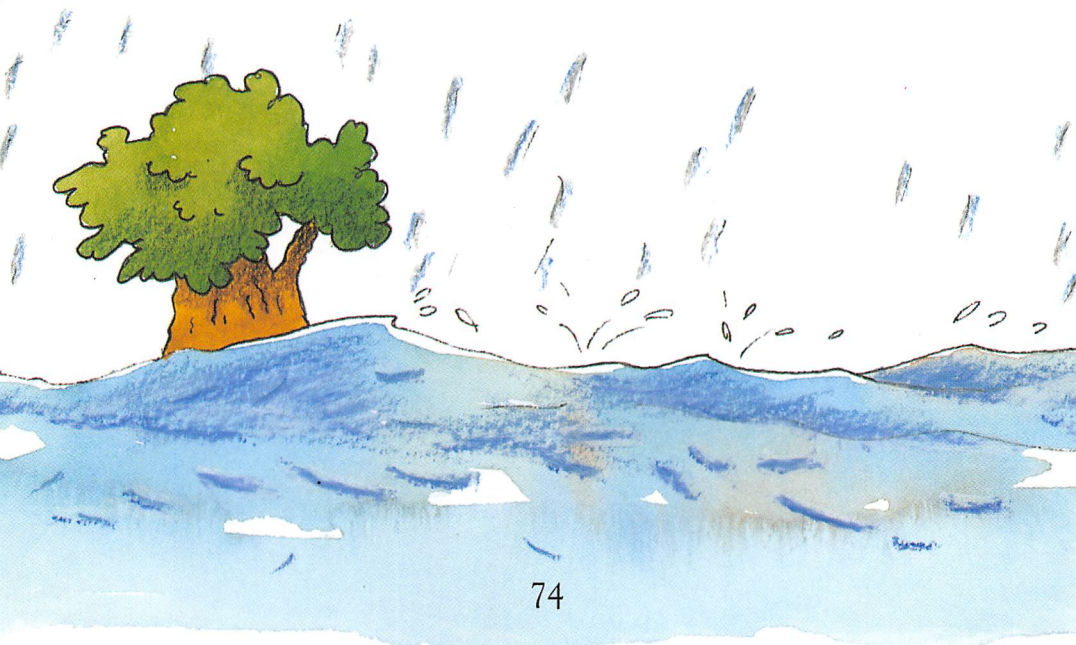


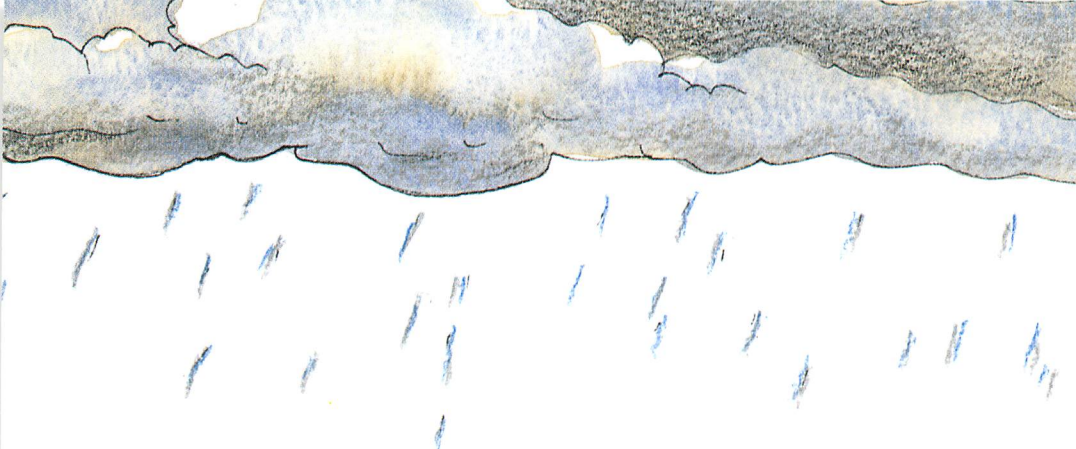


Most of them did not love Allah and did not pray to Him.

Nuh عليه السلام was a very patient man. Every day he would go from house to house and talk to people about Allah.

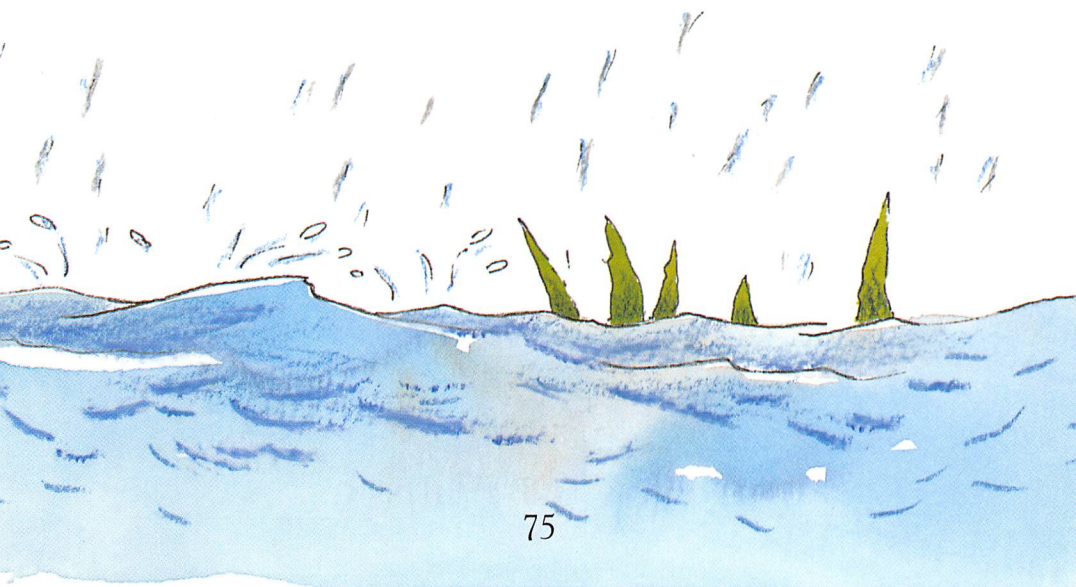
Nuh عليه السلام wanted all the people to love Allah and pray to Him. But the people laughed at Nuh عليه السلام.





This made Nuh عليه السلام very sad. In the end Nuh عليه السلام prayed to Allah: “Allah, save the believers! And punish the wicked people!”

Allah wanted to punish wicked people with a flood. But He wanted to save Nuh عليه السلام and the people who listened to Nuh عليه السلام. Allah told Nuh عليه السلام to build a huge boat.





Soon the boat was ready. The next day it started to rain. It looked as if the rain was never going to stop! The village was getting flooded! Nuh عليه السلام put up a ladder and climbed into the boat together with other good people. After them climbed the animals.

All the animals were in pairs: goats, sheep, horses, elephants and many others. Pairs of birds sat on the deck of the boat: hens, ducks, sparrows, and eagles. Soon everybody was safe in the boat.



There were some people who did not want to come with Nuh عليه السلام. They did not come into the boat.

They said, "We are not scared of the rain!" They were not scared of Allah. They all drowned in the flood.

There was water everywhere. No land could be seen. Even the highest mountains were covered with water. The boat with its passengers was carried by the waves. It rolled to and fro and everybody was very afraid. But Allah was watching over them.



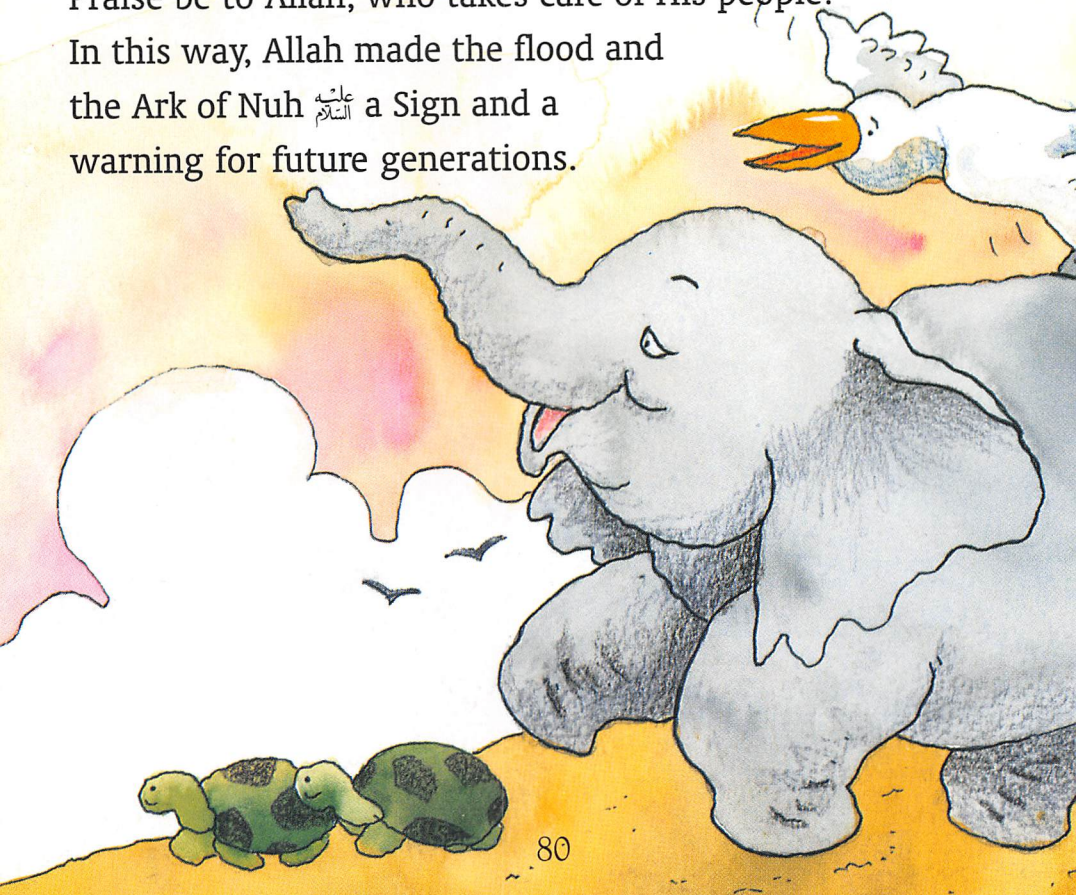


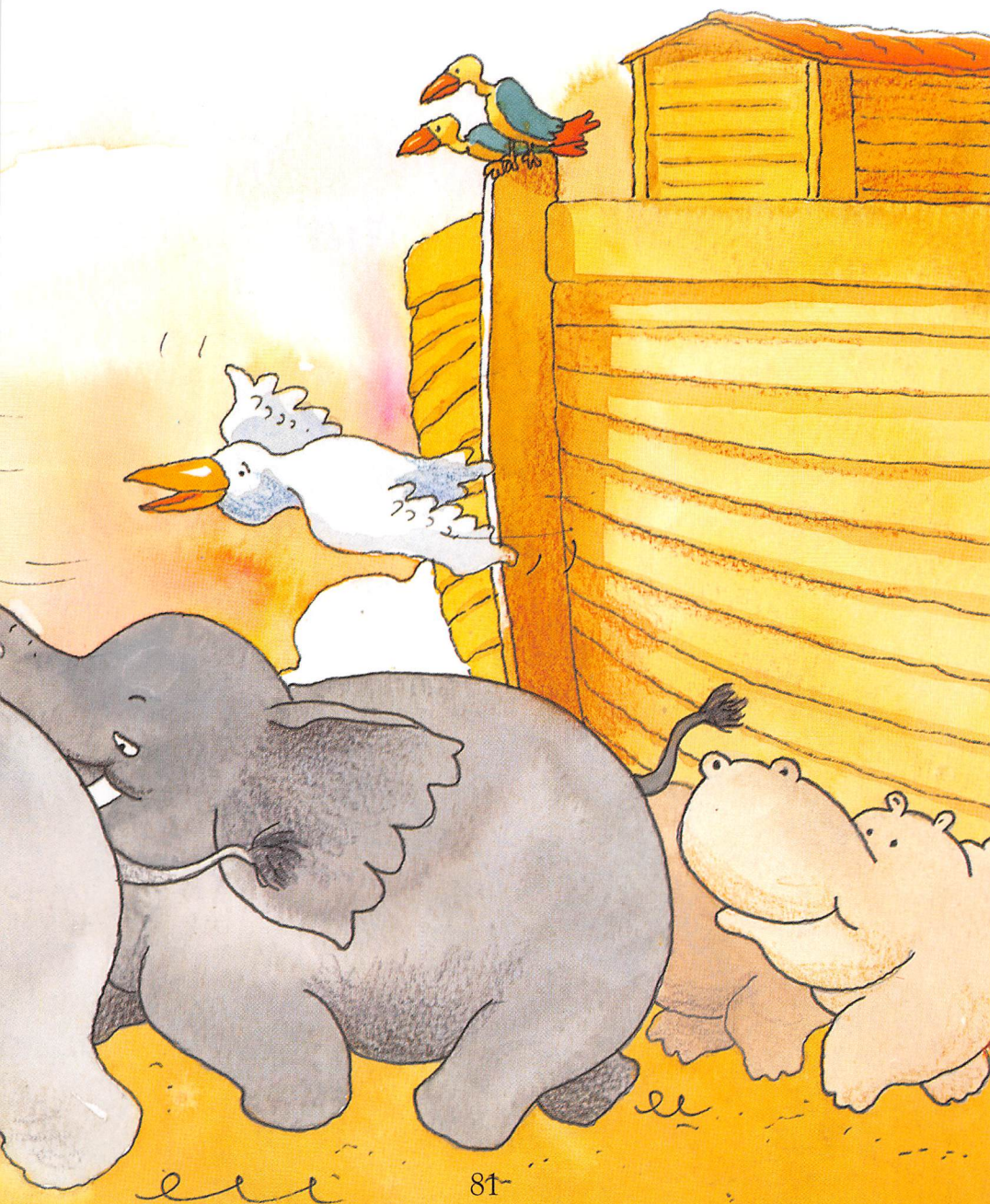
Suddenly the rain stopped. The clouds moved away and the sun began to shine. The water started to dry up.

The Prophet Nuh's boat hit a dry mountaintop and stayed there. Nuh عليه السلام saw the dry land. He told his people to come down. They left the boat. The animals followed them. Happy, they thanked Allah for keeping them safe.

Praise be to Allah, who takes care of His people!

In this way, Allah made the flood and the Ark of Nuh عليه السلام a Sign and a warning for future generations.



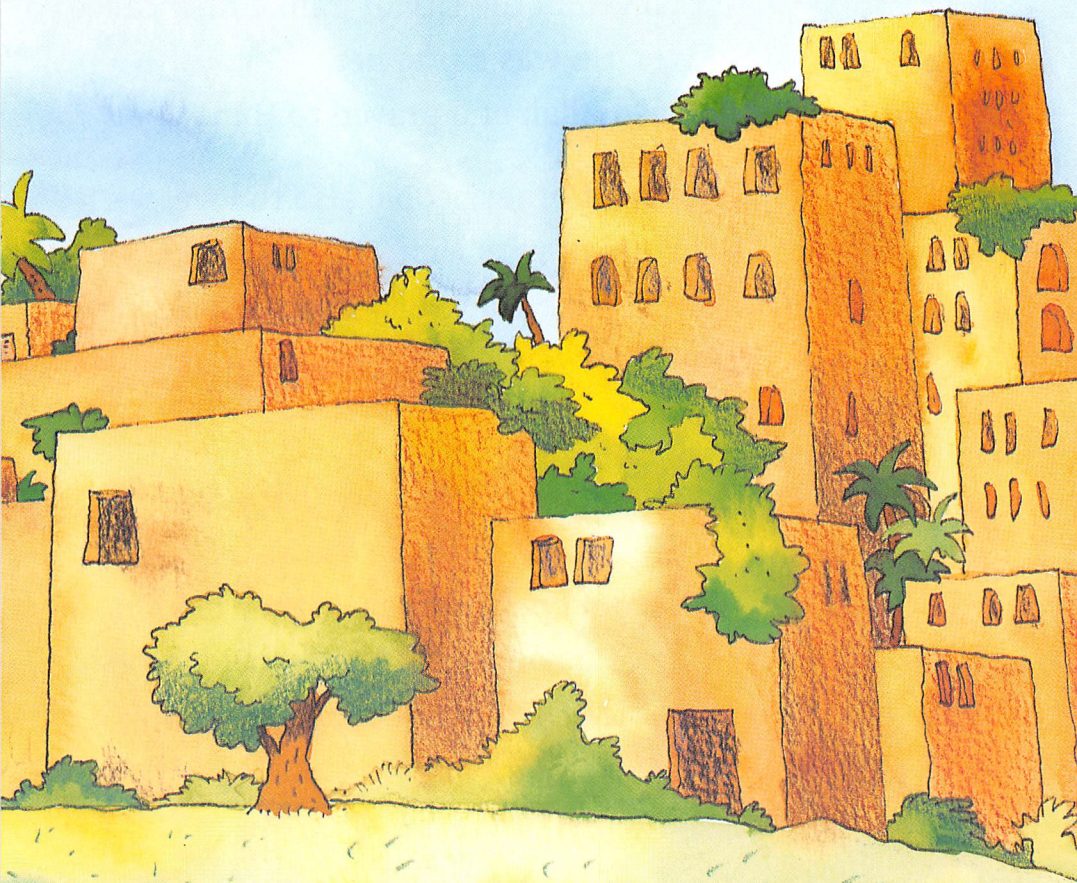


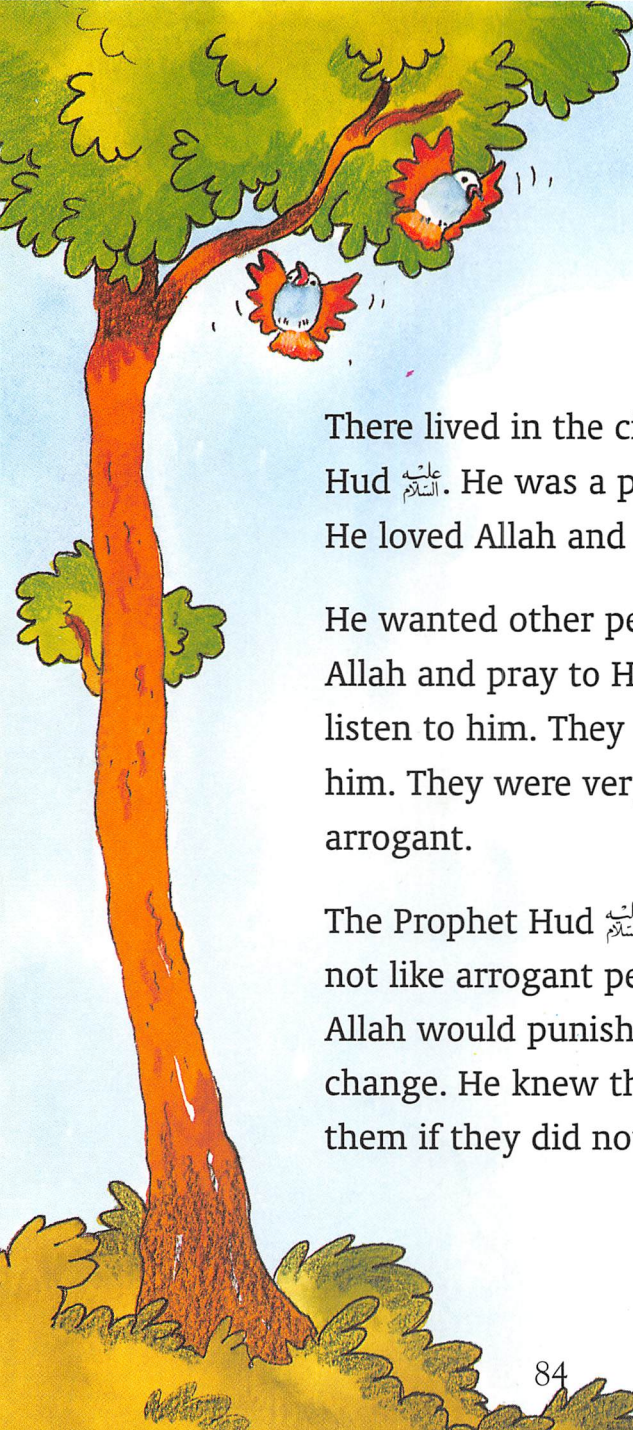
The Prophet Hud عليه السلام and the Terrible Wind

A long time ago in the land of Yemen, there was a city called Iram. Iram was a very big city. The buildings were huge. The gardens were very beautiful. The people were very rich.



The people of Iram were proud. They were proud of their city. They were proud of their gardens. They forgot that Allah gave them everything. They forgot how to pray to Allah.





There lived in the city of Iram a man called Hud عليه السلام. He was a prophet.

He loved Allah and prayed to Him.

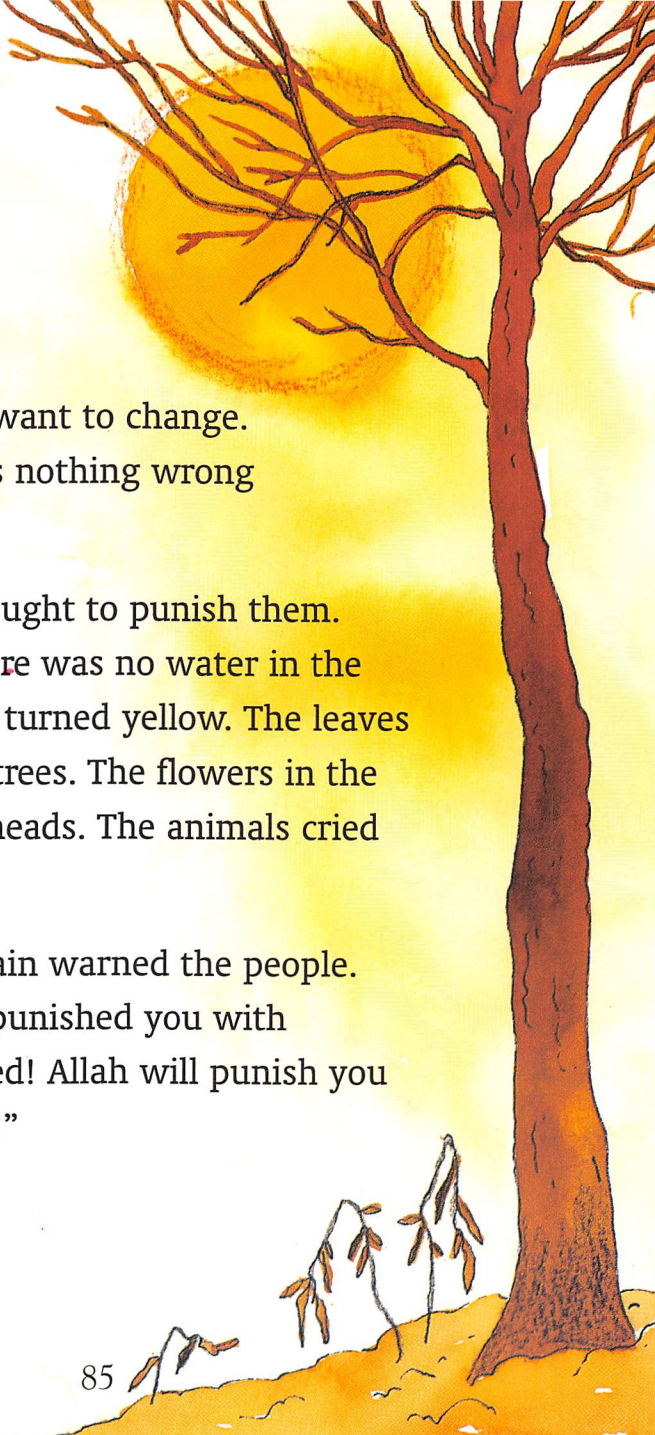
He wanted other people also to love Allah and pray to Him. But they did not listen to him. They turned their backs on him. They were very proud and very arrogant.

The Prophet Hud عليه السلام knew that Allah did not like arrogant people. He knew that Allah would punish them if they did not change. He knew that Allah would punish them if they did not become good.

But the people did not want to change.
They thought there was nothing wrong
with them.

Allah sent a terrible drought to punish them.
The wells went dry. There was no water in the
canals. The green fields turned yellow. The leaves
dried and fell from the trees. The flowers in the
gardens drooped their heads. The animals cried
with thirst.

The Prophet Hud عليه السلام again warned the people.
He said: "Allah already punished you with
drought! Don't be wicked! Allah will punish you
more if you don't listen!"



But the people did not listen to him. In the end, Allah sent a terrible wind to punish them more.

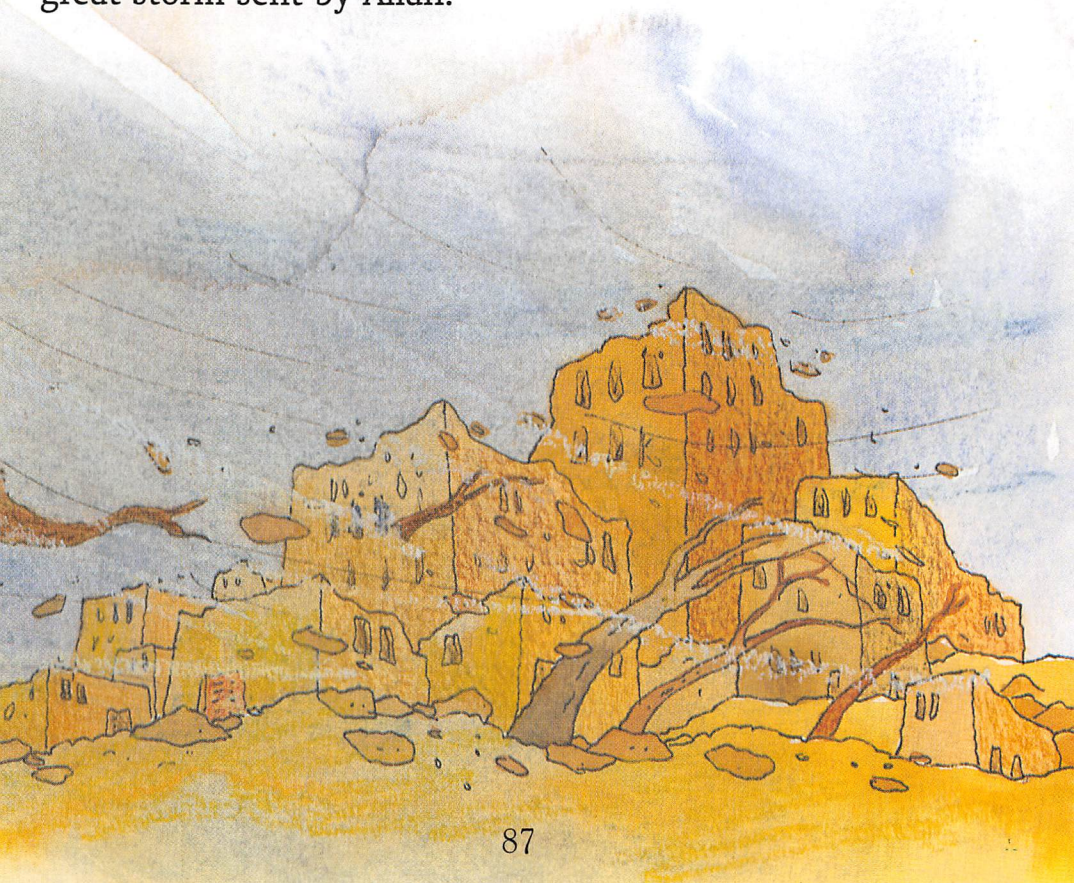
The terrible wind came riding on a furious, dark cloud. People saw the cloud coming nearer and nearer. They thought it was a rain cloud! Their pride made them blind! They did not see that it was a terrible wind riding on a cloud.

They did not understand that they were in the wrong. They did not own up that they were wicked! They did not understand that Allah did not like their wickedness!

The terrible wind blew for seven nights and eight days. The trees fell down with their roots sticking up. The houses were smashed. The gardens were ruined. The men were dead. There was nothing left of the city!

Allah saved only the Prophet Hud عليه السلام and the people who listened to him. Allah always saves those who believe in Him!

The lesson of the story is that one should remain humble, even if one becomes successful. One should give all the credit for one's feats to the blessings of Allah. In not doing so, one's success could be ruined in the same way as the great homes of the people of Ad were destroyed by the great storm sent by Allah.

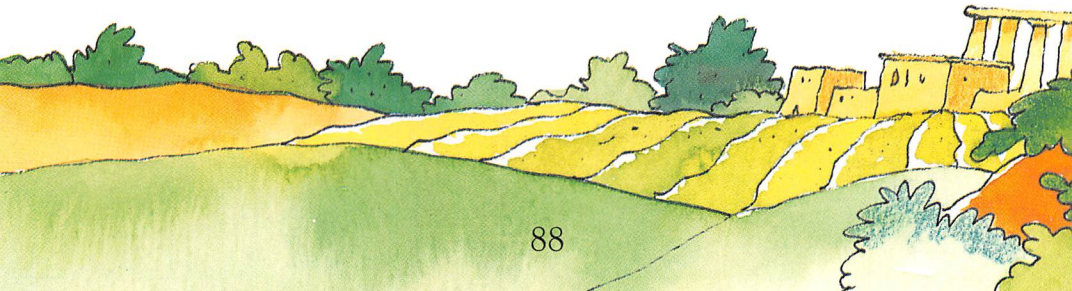




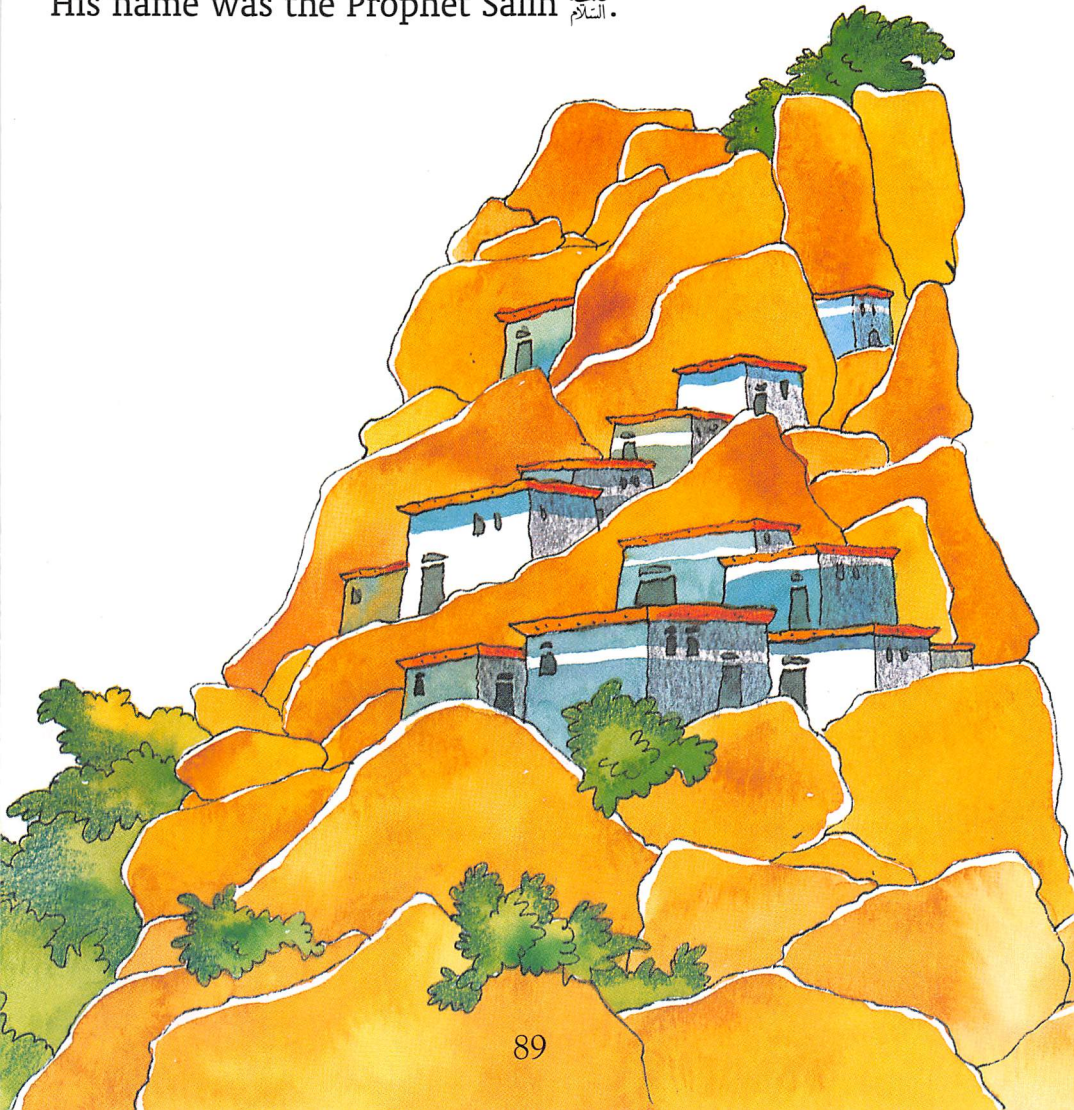
The Camel and the Evil People

This is a story of what happened a long, long time ago. In the land of Arabia there was a tribe called Thamud. The tribe of Thamud were great builders. They built many towns. Some towns were on the plains. And some towns were in the rocky mountains.

There were beautiful palaces and castles in the towns on the plains. Everybody admired them. But the towns in the rocky mountains were even more beautiful. The houses were cut out of the rocks of the mountains. People from far away would come to look at them.



Nobody believed men could make such beautiful houses.
Among the tribe of Thamud there lived a prophet of Allah.
His name was the Prophet Salih ^{عليه السلام}.



The Prophet Salih عليه السلام often prayed to Allah. He thanked Allah for all the gifts Allah gave to the people. He thanked Allah for the great skill of building houses. He also thanked Allah for teaching people how to make houses in the rocky mountains.

The people of Thamud said to each other:

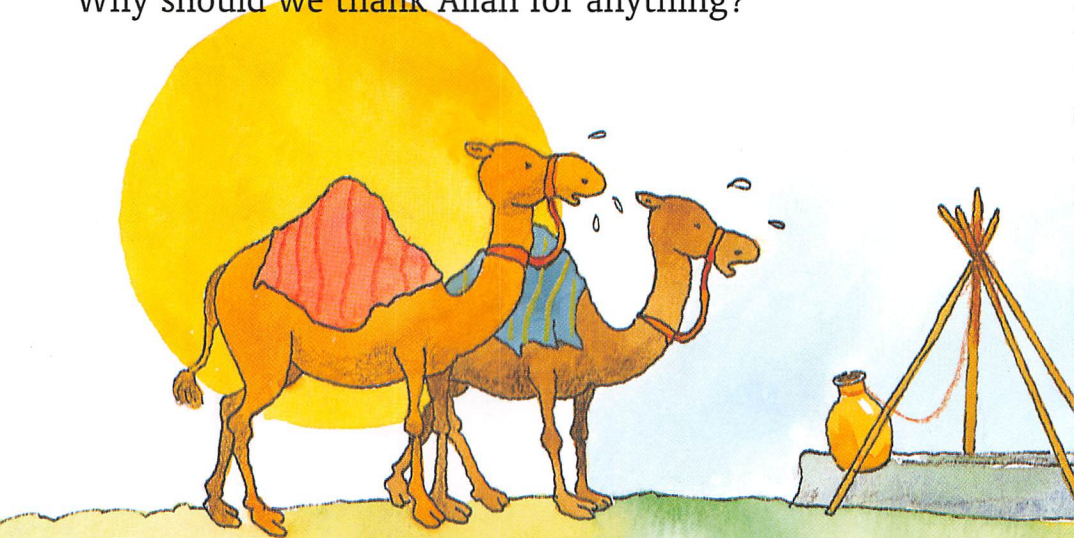
“We are the smartest people on earth.”

“We know how to build beautiful palaces.”

“We know how to cut houses out of the rocks.”

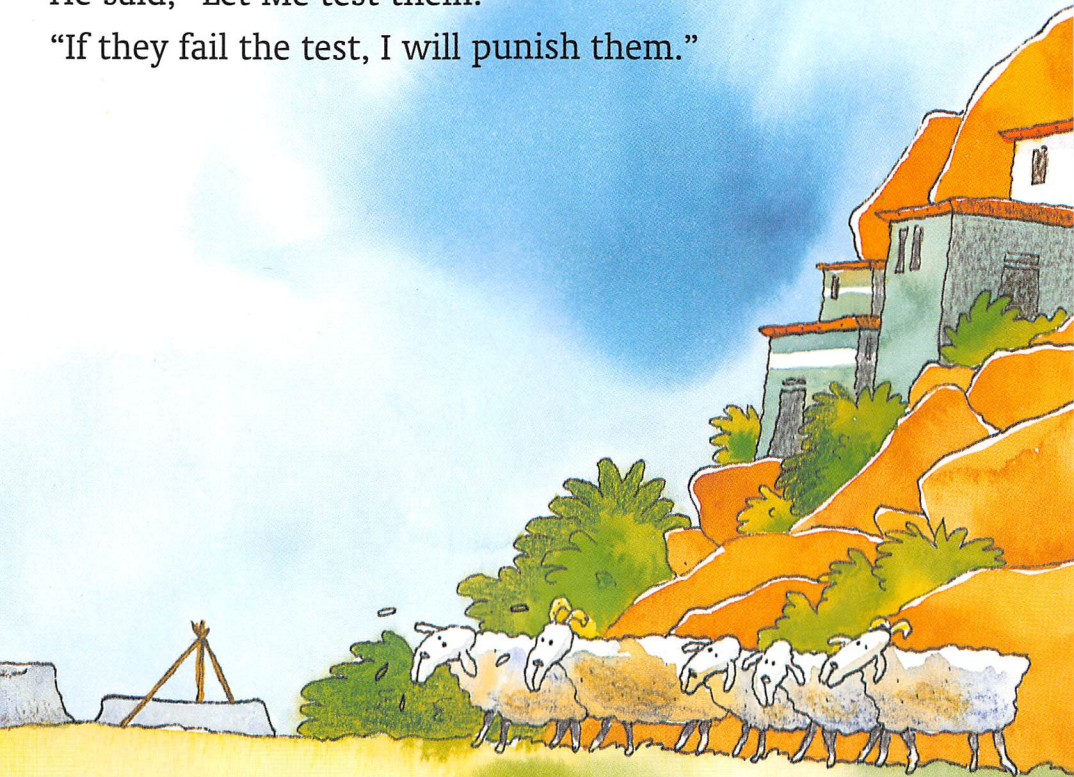
“We have learnt everything ourselves.”

“Why should we thank Allah for anything?”



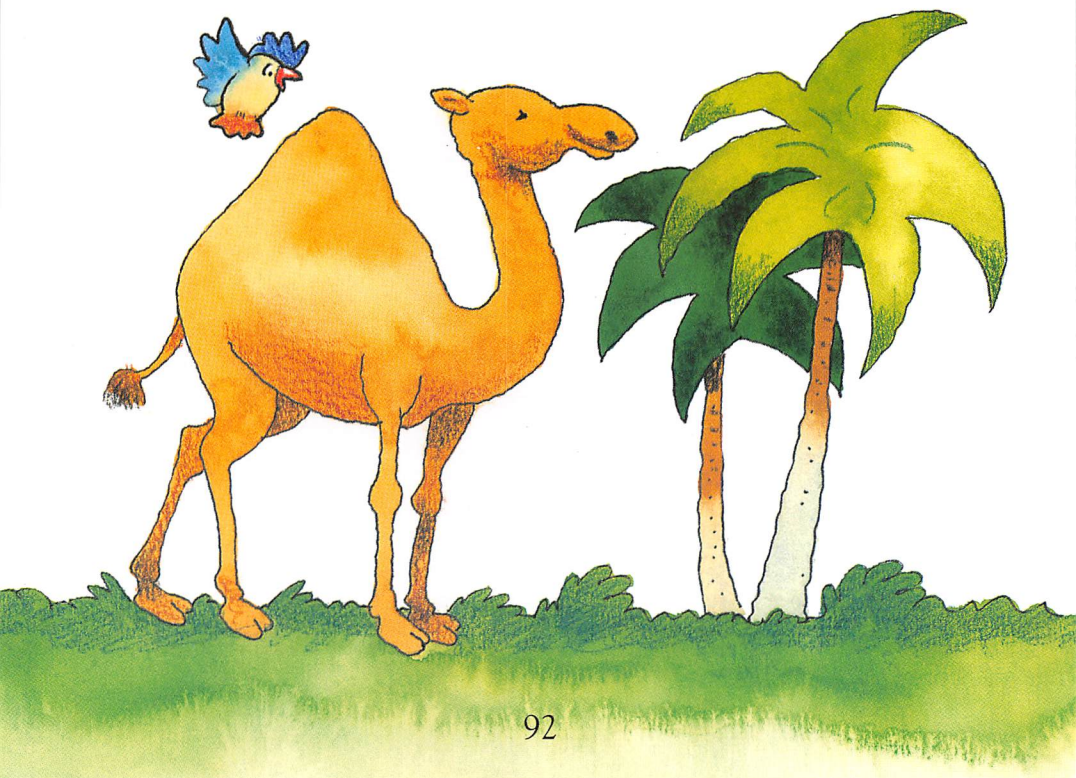
The people of Thamud became wicked and mean. They had many wells. But they did not let other people's sheep and camels drink from the wells. They had many green, grassy meadows. But they did not let other people's sheep and camels graze there.

Allah saw their wickedness. He said, "Let Me test them."
"If they fail the test, I will punish them."



To test them, Allah sent a beautiful she-camel. The Prophet Salih عليه السلام told the people to be good to the she-camel. He told them to let her walk around.

He also told them to let her drink cool water and eat fresh grass. But the people of Thamud were mean and wicked. They wounded the she-camel of Allah and then killed her.



They were also mean to the Prophet Salih عليه السلام.

They wanted him to leave their country. They even planned to kill him. Allah was very angry with them. He made the earth shake and rumble.

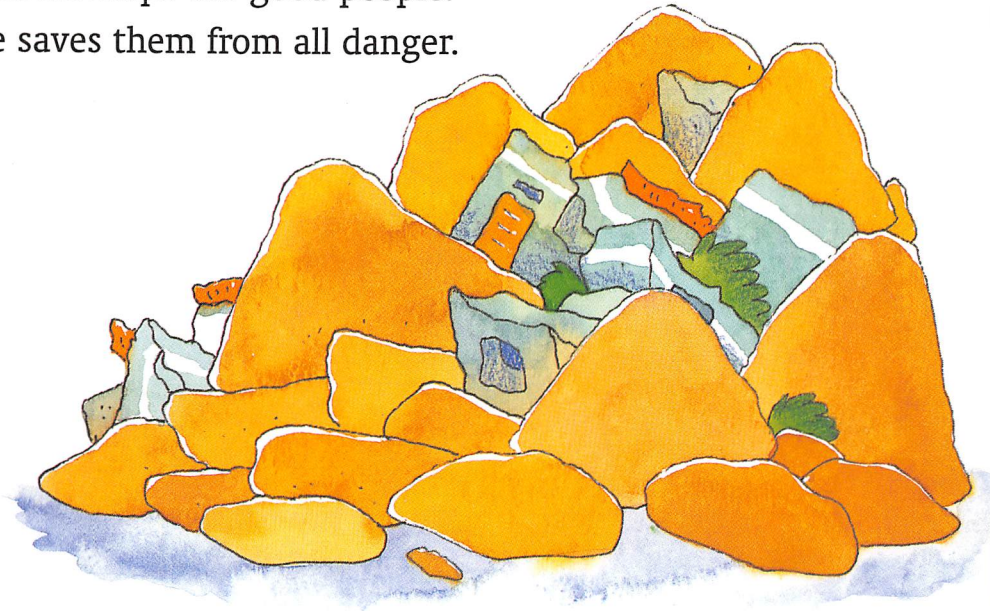
An earthquake! The houses collapsed! The wicked people died under the ruins. Only the good people were saved.

Allah tests all people.

He punishes the bad people.

And He helps the good people.

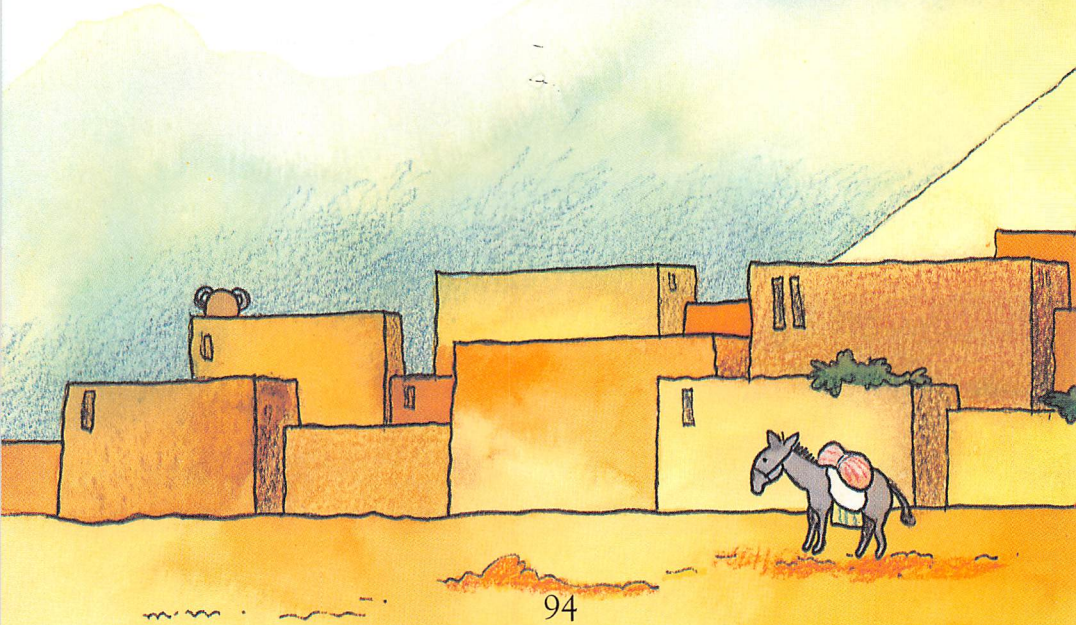
He saves them from all danger.





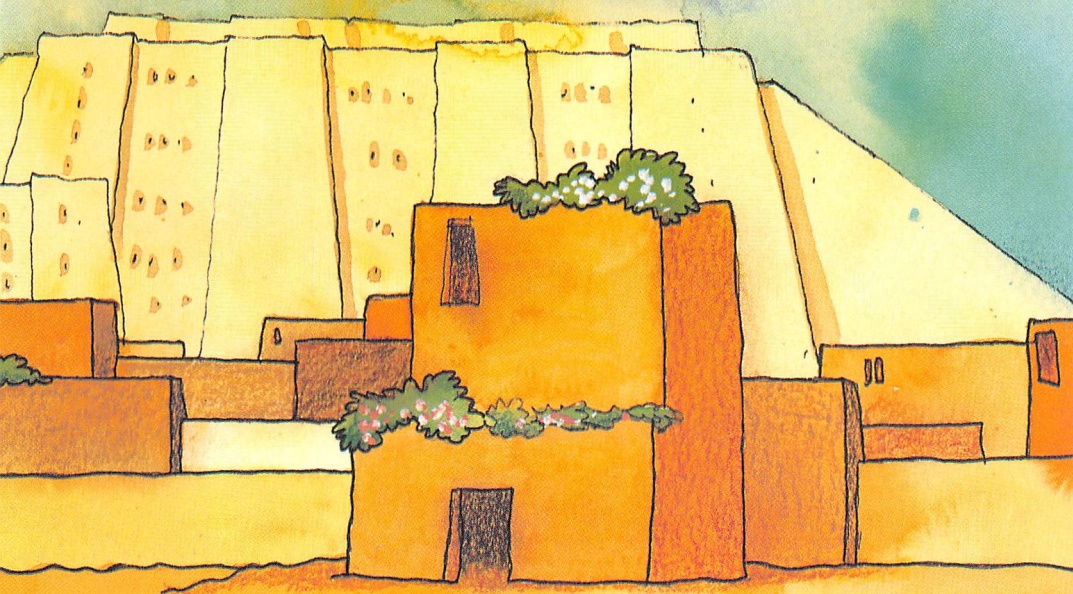
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام

A long time ago, in the small village of Ur, a boy was born.
His parents called him Ibrahim, or Abraham عليه السلام.
Ibrahim عليه السلام was a very good boy.
He loved Allah more than anything else in the world.
When he grew up, Allah made him a great prophet.

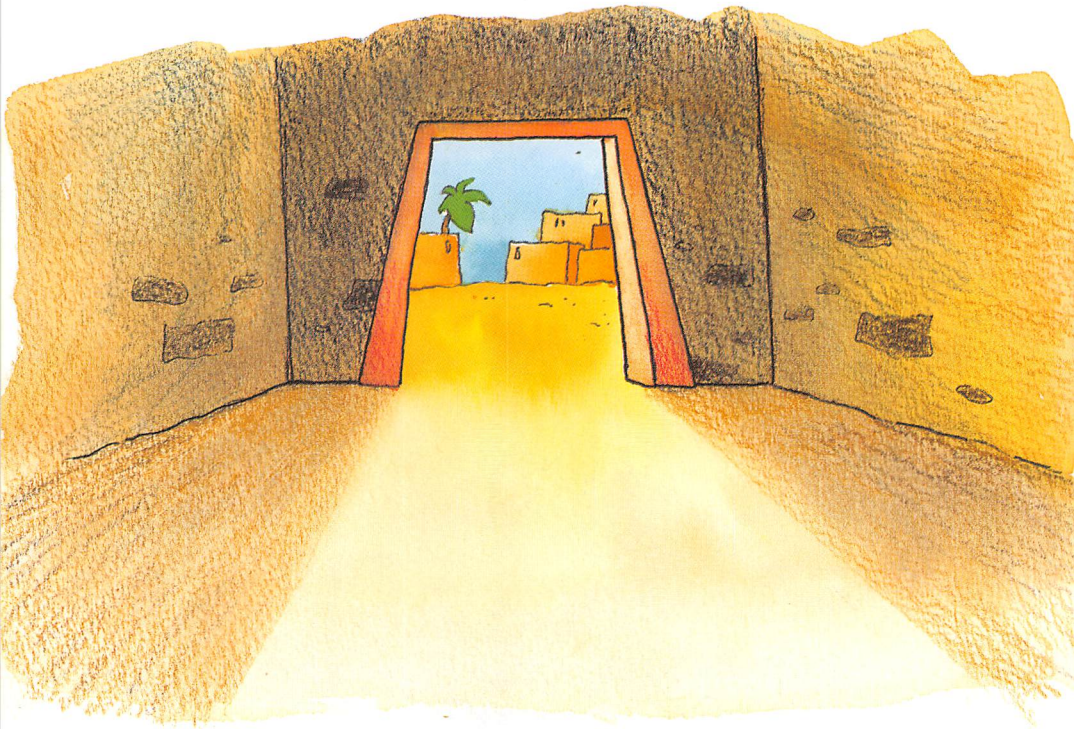


The people in the Prophet Ibrahim's village did not love Allah. They did not bow to Him. They did not pray to Him. Instead of praying to Allah, they prayed to stones and statues. They even made a special room for them.

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام hated the stone statues. He said to the people: "You must pray to Allah." Nobody listened to him.



One day all the village people went to the market.
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was alone. He thought: "There is nobody in the village. I am alone. Now I can get rid of all the stone statues. Then everybody will bow to Allah. And everybody will pray to Him."



The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام went to the room where the stone statues were kept. He took a hammer and broke them one by one. When the people came back to the village, there was nothing left but broken stones. The village people were angry with the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام. They shouted at him. They held him by his hands and legs and they threw him into a fire.



Allah loved the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام a lot.
How could Allah let wicked people harm Ibrahim!
Allah said to the fire: "Be cool!"

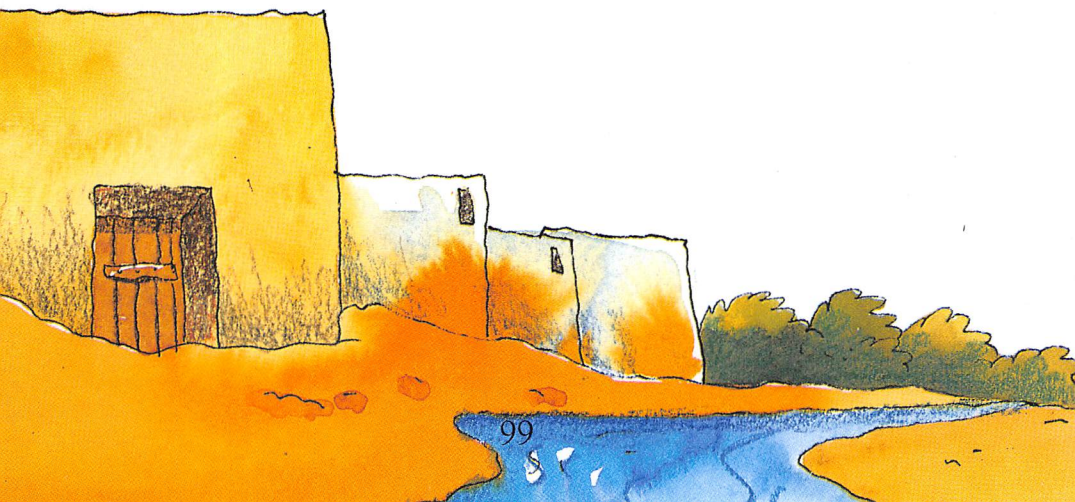
The fire obeyed Allah and became cool. It did not burn the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام at all. He was saved!

After that the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام became bold.
He knew Allah was on his side. He told the people to forget
the stone statues and bow to Allah. He traveled from one
village to another and told the people about Allah.



At first only a few people believed in what the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام said. But slowly more and more people joined in. Allah looks after people who love Him. He guides them in everything. He is always with them.

The moral of the story is that faith in Allah is the only thing that can save a believer in this world and in the world hereafter.



Ibrahim's Faith

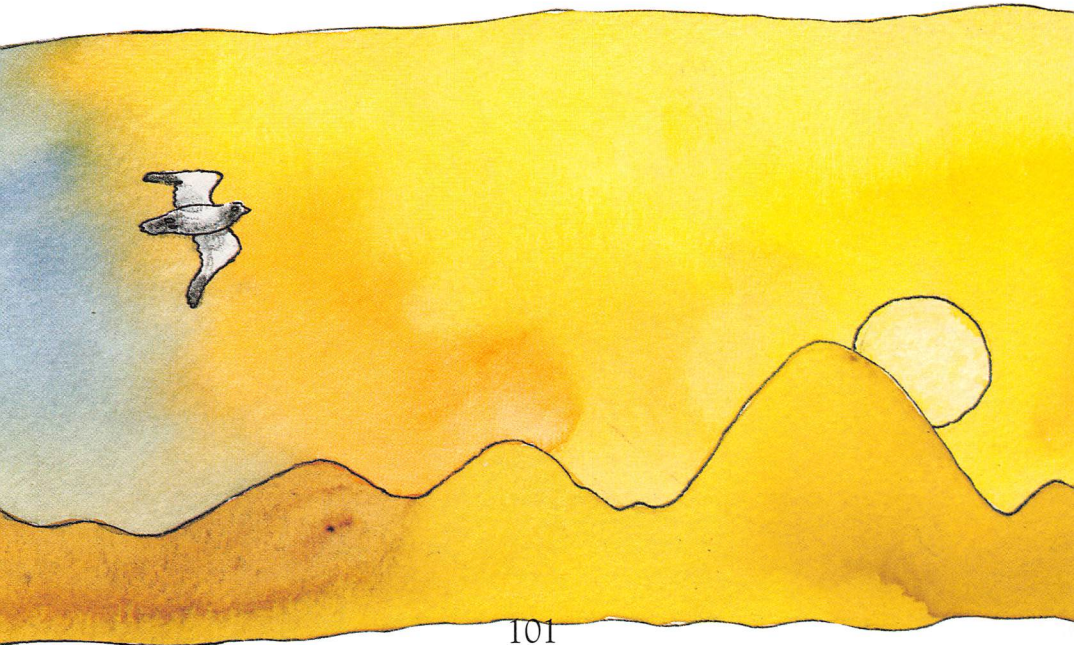
When the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was a young boy, he used to think a lot. He wanted to know who made the world. He thought: "The Lord of the world made the world. Let me find this Lord. He will be my Lord also."

Allah loved the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام very much. He was his best friend. He wanted the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to know everything properly. So he taught Ibrahim many things.



It was a dark night. The sky was dark. In the darkness, Allah showed the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام a star in the sky. It twinkled with a bright light.

When the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام saw the star, he shouted with joy: "The star is so beautiful! This is my Lord!" After some time the star went away. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام thought: "This star is not my Lord. My Lord can never go away like this!"



Then the beautiful moon appeared in the sky. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام shouted: "It is so beautiful! The moon must be my Lord!" The morning light came and the moon went away. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام said: "The moon is not my Lord. My Lord can never go away like this!"



In the morning the sun came out. It was shining beautifully. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام shouted: "See, it is so beautiful! It is bigger! It must be my Lord!"

In the evening the sun too went away. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام said: "The sun is not my Lord. My Lord can never go away like this!"

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام looked around. He looked at the trees. He looked at the flowers. He looked at the clouds. Suddenly something happened. A new thought came to the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and he realized that Allah is the Lord of everything. He made the world! He made the sky! He made the sun, and the moon, and the stars! So the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام said, "Allah is my Lord."

Allah guided Ibrahim عليه السلام. Allah showed Ibrahim عليه السلام who was the true Lord of the World. Allah Himself is the Lord of the World. He is our Lord. He takes care of us. He never goes away and never leaves us alone.

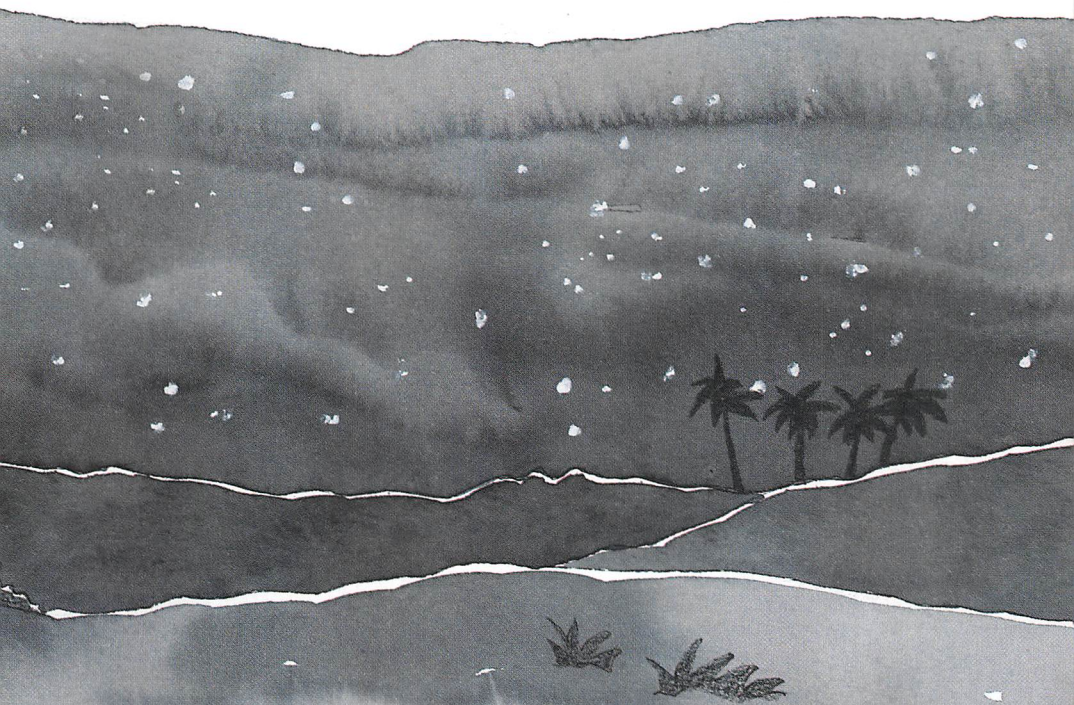
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام travels to Arabia

One night the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام had a dream. In the dream Allah spoke to him. He said to Ibrahim عليه السلام: "Pack your luggage. Take your camel. Tell your wife and son to get ready. Then go to Arabia."



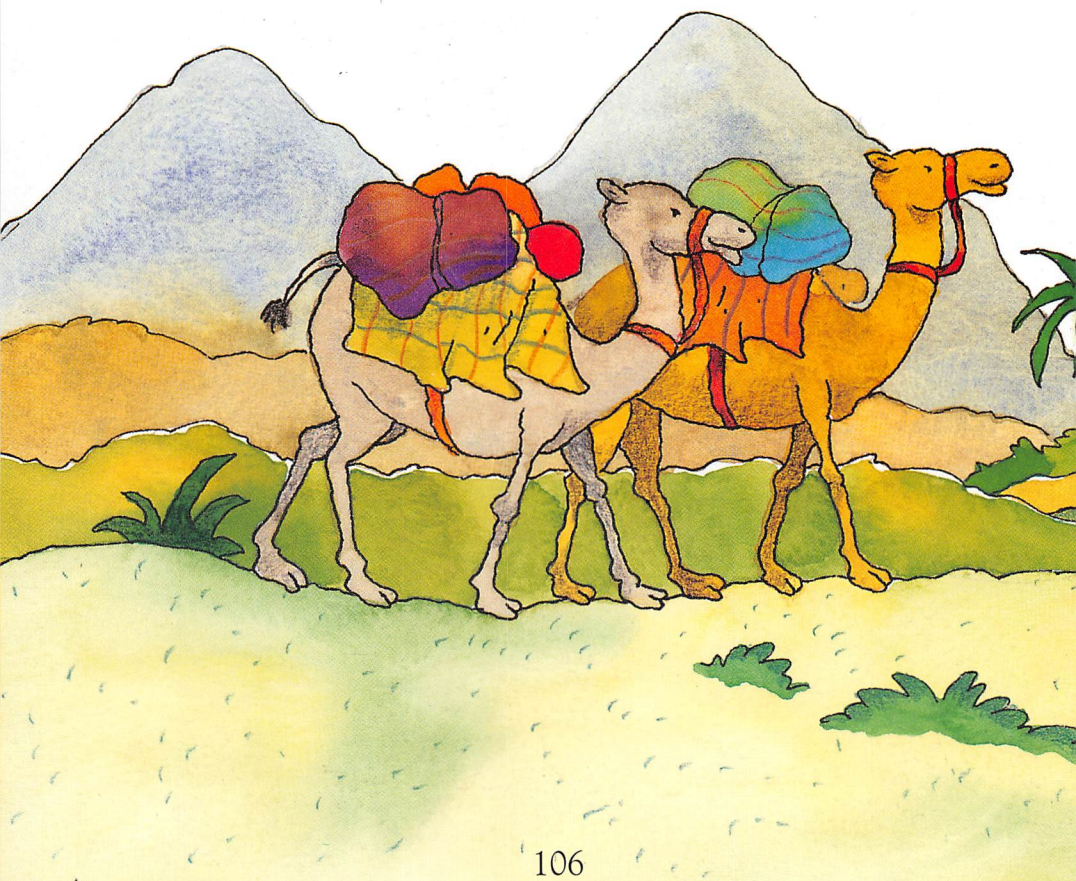
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام called his wife Hajrah and said:
“Get ready. We are going on a trip.”

The next day, all of them rode on the camels and left the village.



The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and his family travelled for many days. They climbed high mountains. They crossed deep valleys. In the end they reached a great desert.

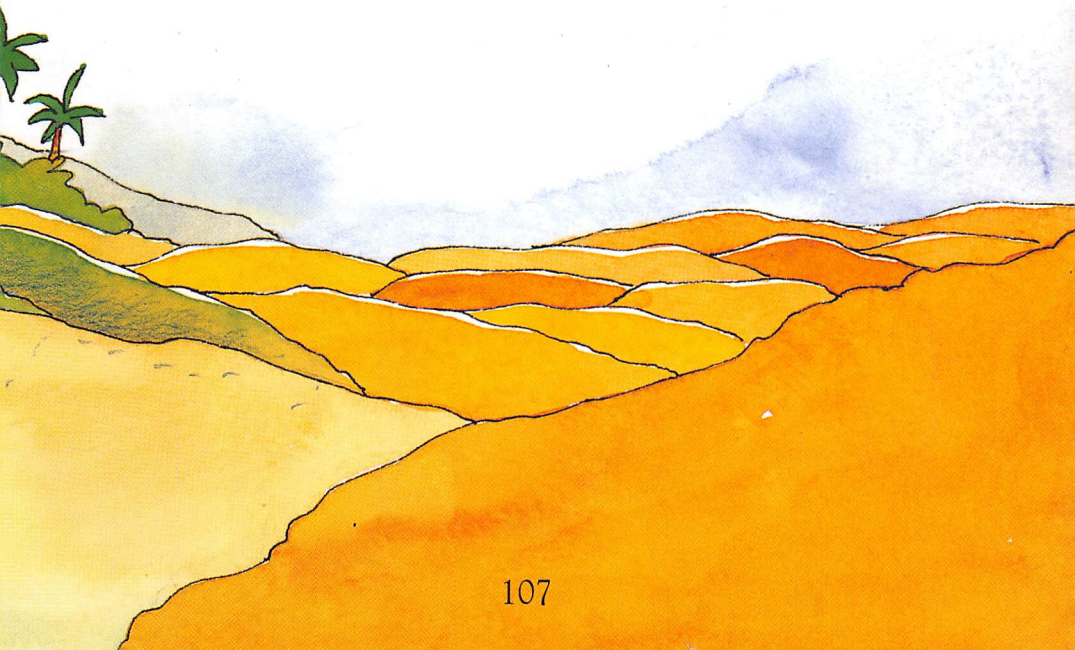
There was nothing but sand in the desert. There were no shade-giving trees. There was nowhere to hide from the sun. There were no clouds in the sky.



The heat was making everybody thirsty. But there was no well. And they had no more water!

After a while they reached a little valley. The camels stopped. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and Hajrah and little Ismail got down from the camels.

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام said to Hajrah: "You stay here. Keep Ismail with you. I have to go back." The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام turned around and went away.



Soon Hajrah and Ismail were alone.

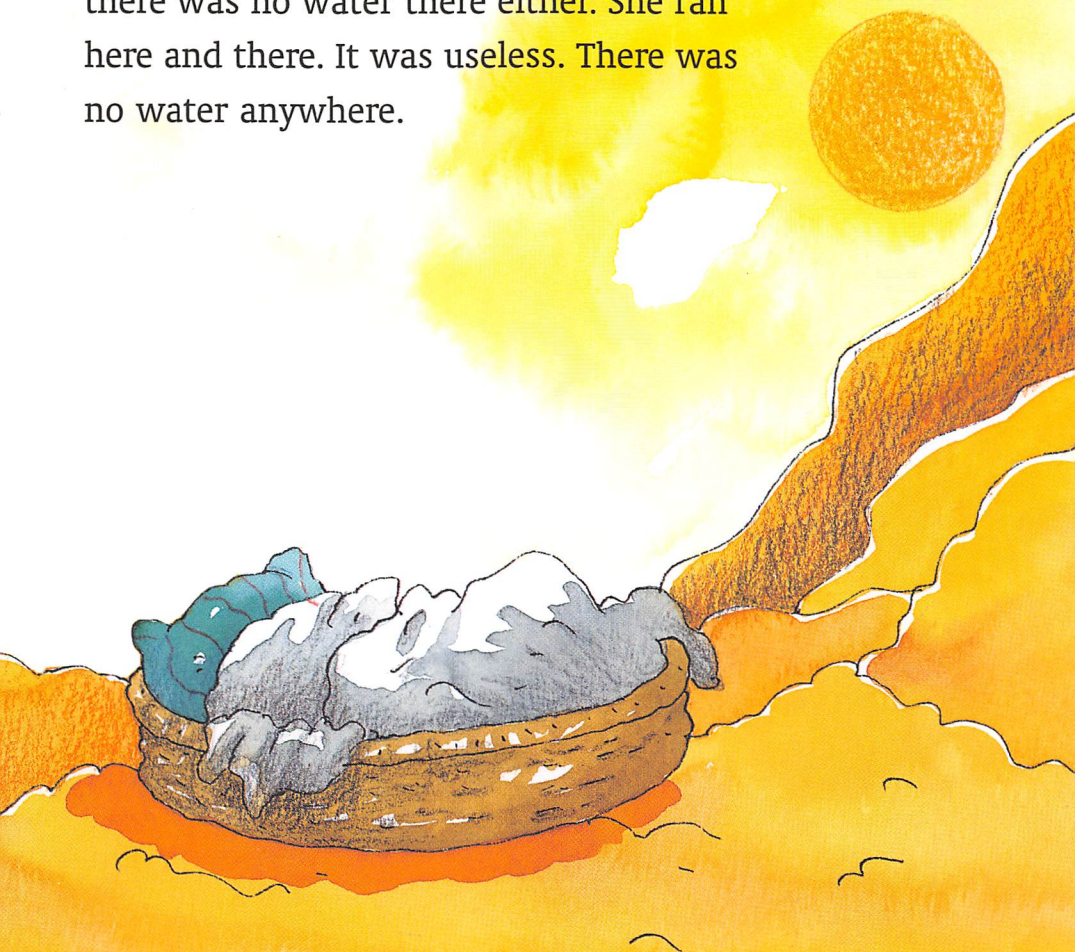
Ismail started to cry. He was thirsty.

Hajrah put Ismail on the ground.

Then she went to look for a well. She could not find any well. There were no wells in the valley!

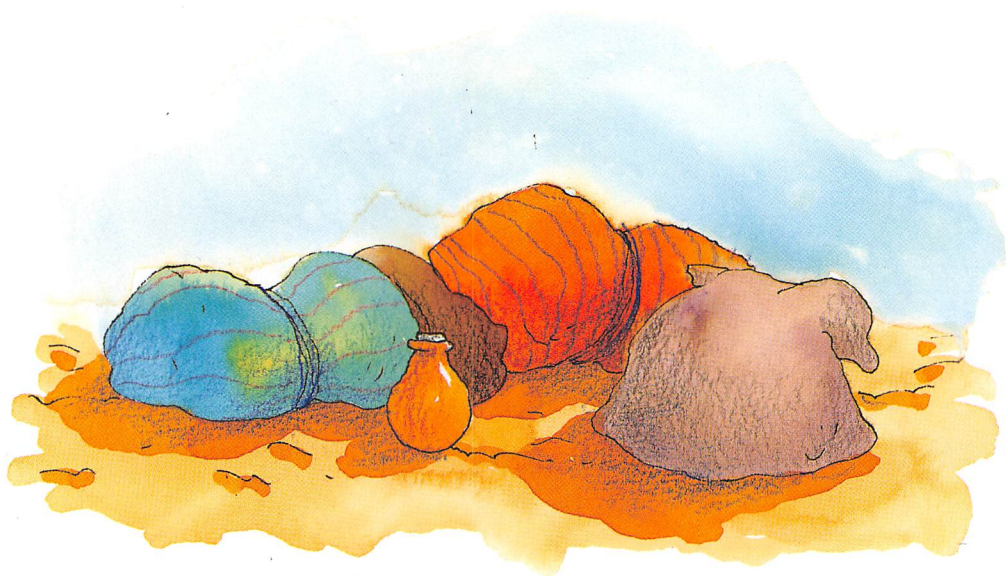


She looked for water under stones, but there was no water there either. She ran here and there. It was useless. There was no water anywhere.



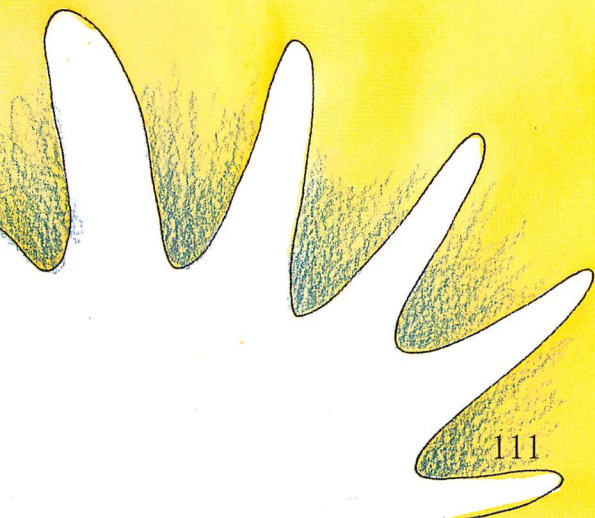
Hajrah tried again. She ran between the hills. She looked again for water. She was very afraid for her son. She did not know what to do. There was no water anywhere!

She heard Ismail crying loudly. She ran back to him. She was afraid something might have happened! She was afraid he was getting sick with the heat!



Ismail was lying on the hot sand. He was crying.
He was kicking his legs in the sand. And then there was a
miracle! There was a hole in the sand near his feet. And
there was water in the hole! Thanks be to Allah!

Hajrah cried with joy. She took some water in her hands
and gave it to her son.



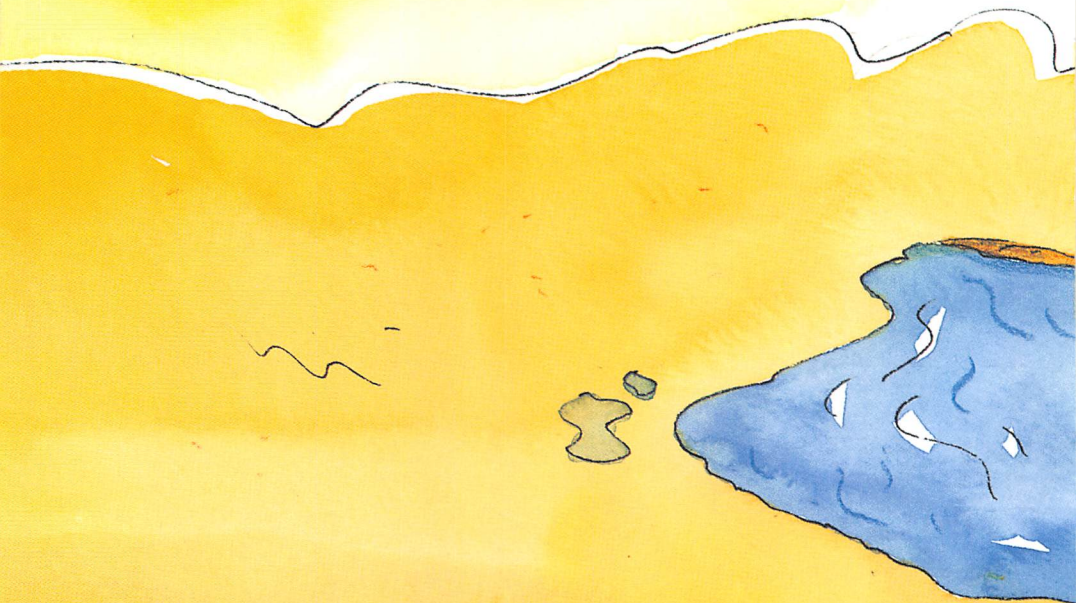
The water hole was really a spring.

It was later called Zamzam.

It never dried up.

It flows even today.

The moral of the story is that believers who, despite their hardships, follow the path of Allah, will find that Allah will help them in miraculous ways, just as the child Ismail عليه السلام was saved by the miracle of the Zamzam spring.

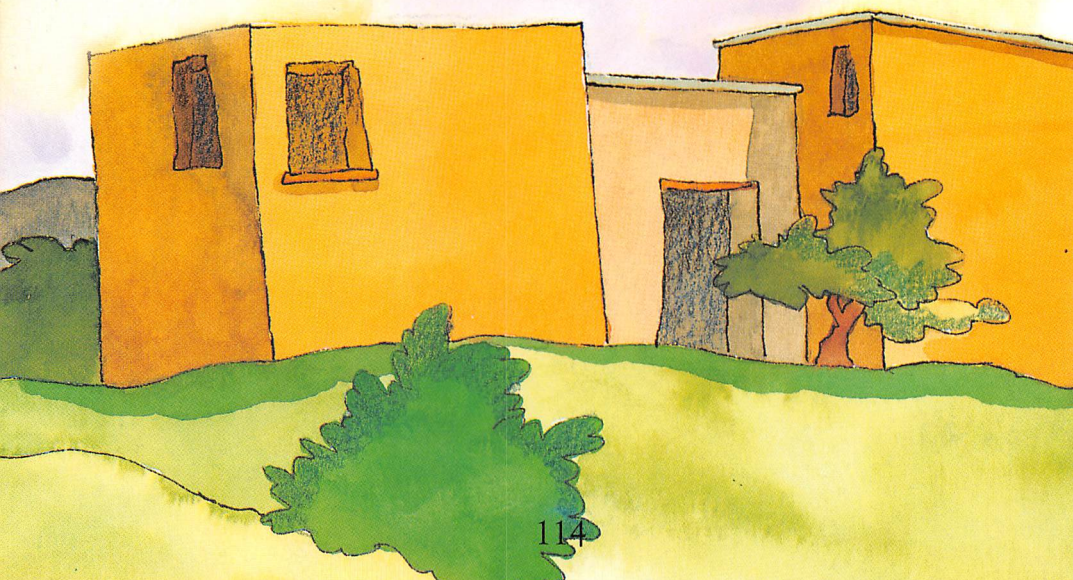




The Great Sacrifice

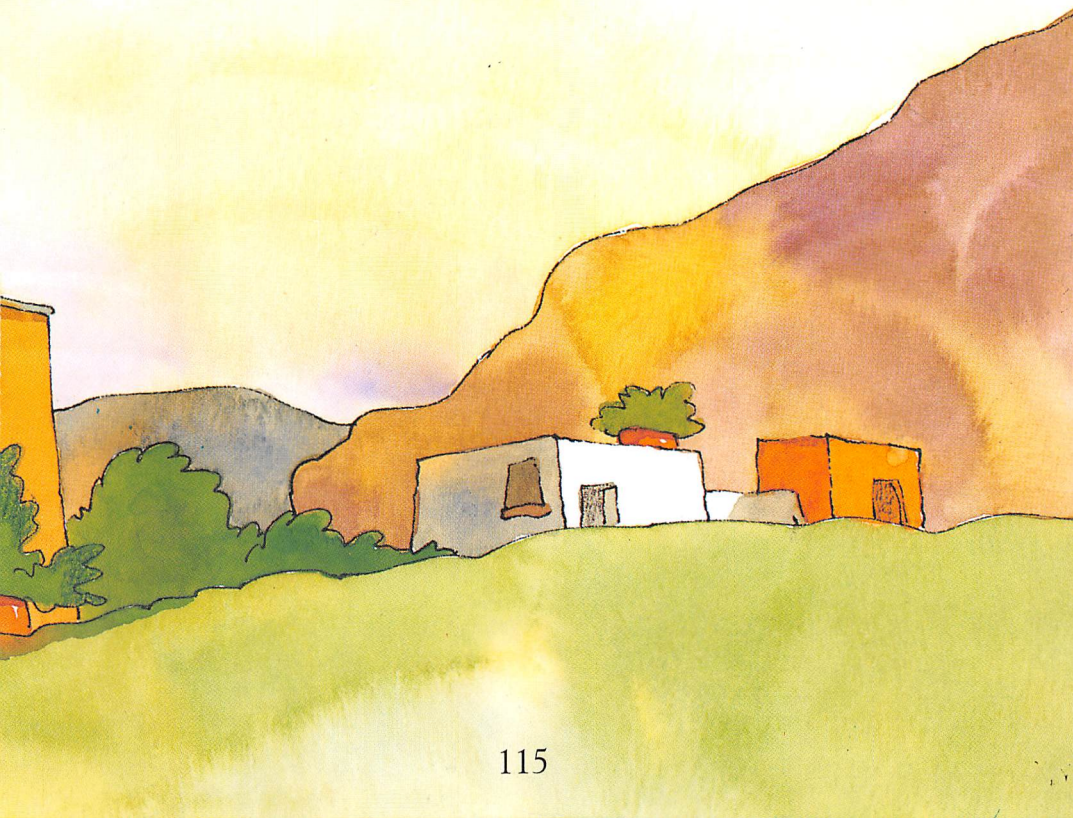
One night the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام had a dream.
He was ordered by Lord to sacrifice his son.

Allah talks to the prophets. But He does not talk as we talk.
When He wants prophets to do something, He shows it to
them in a dream. A dream is like an order from Allah.



The next day, the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام called Ismail.
He said: "Ismail, I had a dream last night. Allah wants me to sacrifice you."

Ismail was not afraid. He loved Allah very much.
He also knew Allah was good. Allah never does anything to harm good people.



The Prophet Ibrahim and Ismail left Makkah. They went to the valley of Mina. This was the place the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام saw in his dream.

Ismail lay down on the ground. He closed his eyes. His father stood next to him. He picked up the knife. He was ready to obey Allah by sacrificing his son!

At this moment the angel Jibril appeared. Allah sent the angel Jibril with a ram to be sacrificed instead.





In this way the little Ismail was saved. Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail cried with joy. They thanked Allah and then the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام sacrificed the ram.

Allah loves people who listen to Him.
He loves people who trust in Him.
He cares for them.

Allah was so pleased with the readiness of the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to sacrifice his beloved son, that He commanded the believers to observe this day as Id al-Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice.



The Prophet Ibrahim's Guests

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was a great prophet. He lived a long, long time ago in the land of Palestine.

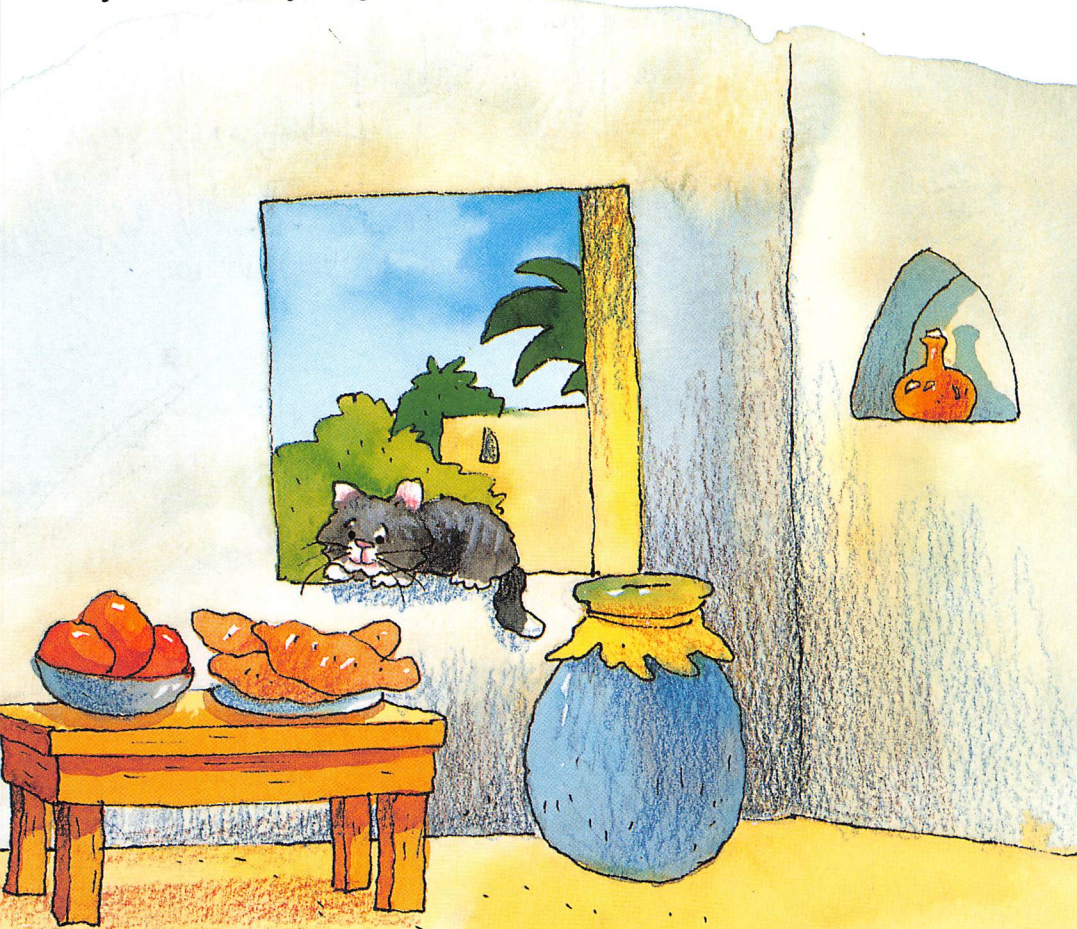
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام wanted all people to know about Allah. He preached the message of the one God and told people to pray to Allah and thank Him for everything they had.

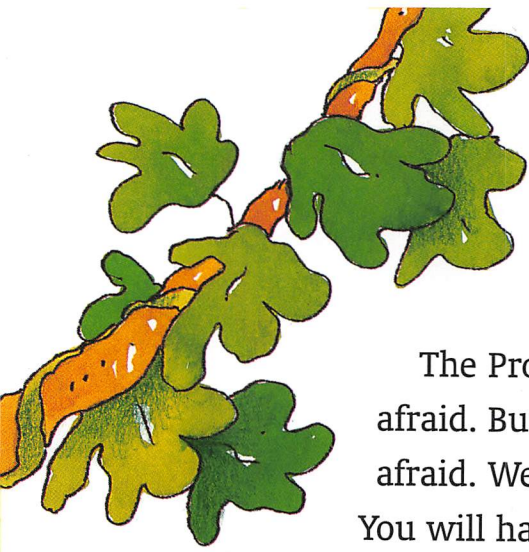
People did not want to listen to the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام. They turned their backs and went away. Only the Prophet Ibrahim's wife and his nephew, Lut, listened to him.

One day two men came to the village. They stopped at the door of the Prophet Ibrahim's house and said: "Peace! Peace!"

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام greeted them also: "And peace be with you!"

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام thought that they were strangers from another village. He rushed inside the house. He brought food for them. The men did not touch anything. They did not eat the food because they were not human. They were really angels sent by Allah.

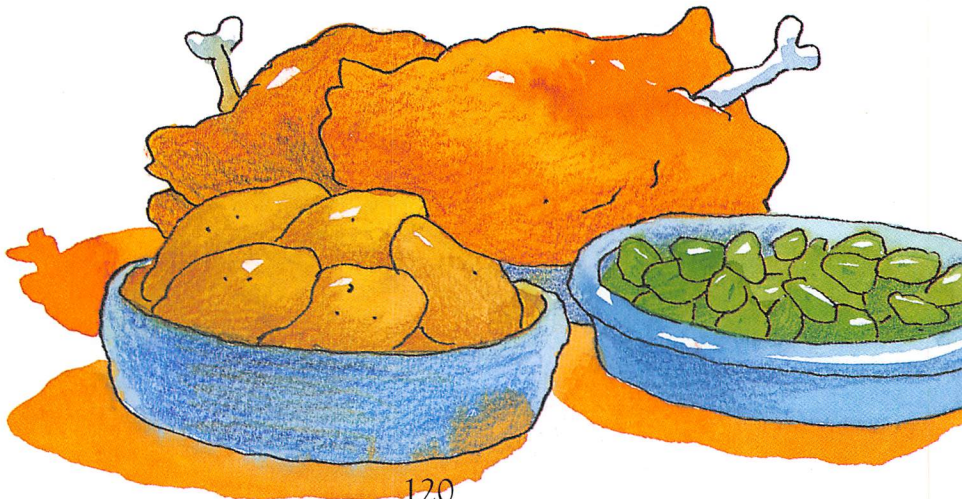




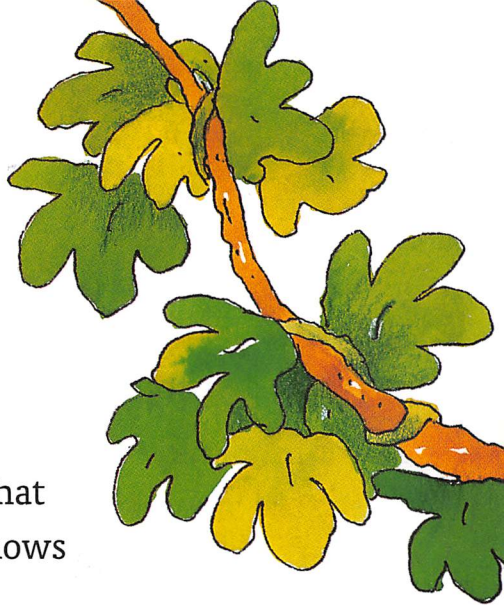
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام became afraid. But the angels said: "Don't be afraid. We have brought you good news. You will have a son. He will be very wise when he grows up."

The Prophet Ibrahim's wife was very old. She did not believe in what the angels said.

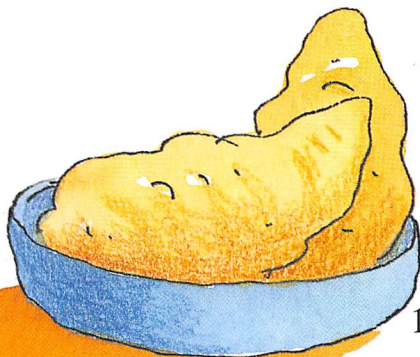
She said: "I am too old to have a baby."



The angels answered: "This is what Allah wants. Allah is wise, He knows best."



The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام asked the angels: "Why did you come? Do you have more work here?" The angels replied: "Allah sent us to punish wicked people. They live in cities near the Dead Sea. We are going there."



The Prophet Ibrahim's nephew, the Prophet Lut عليه السلام, also lived in the cities near the Dead Sea. The people of the cities were really very wicked. Only the Prophet Lut عليه السلام and some of his family were good. The angels said to the Prophet Lut عليه السلام: "Run away at night and take your people with you, as Allah told us to destroy the wicked cities."

The night came. Suddenly everything began to shake. The ground shook with a terrible earthquake! It also began to rain. But it was not raining water!

It was hot fire falling from the sky! All the wicked people died and nothing was left of the cities.

This is how the angels sent by Allah destroyed the wicked people. Only the good people were saved!



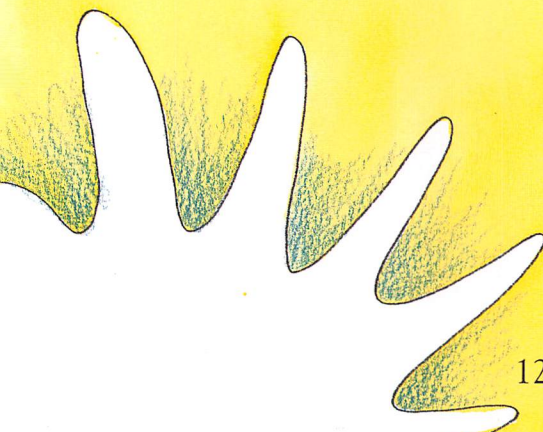


Building the Kabah

There was a dry, sandy valley in Arabia. Nothing grew there. Nobody lived there. There was no water either for man or animals.

Allah told the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to leave Hajra and Ismail there. Little Ismail was very thirsty and cried bitterly. He kicked the ground with his foot.

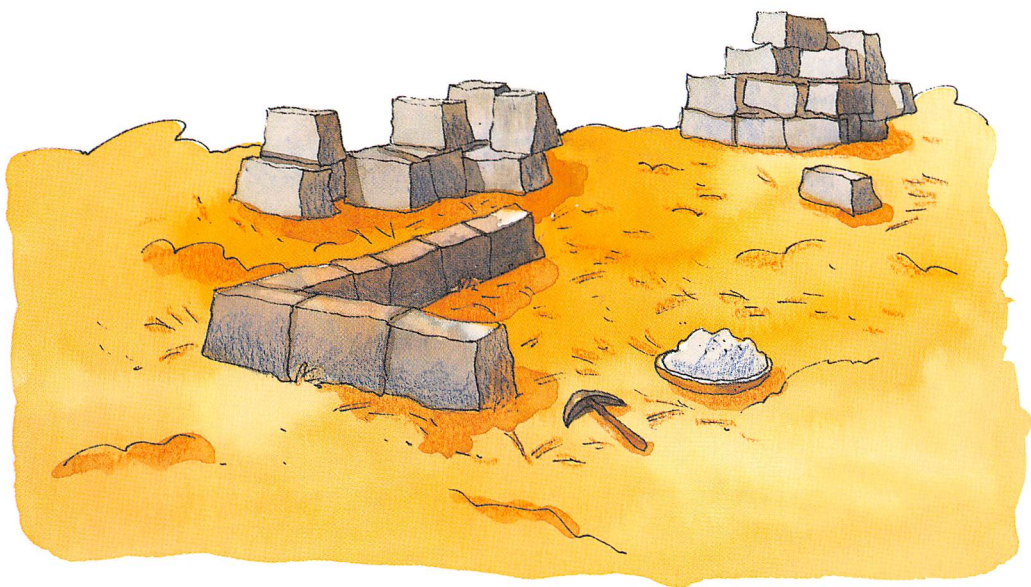
Suddenly water started to flow in the sand! This was the spring of Zamzam. It gave water to the desert valley. More people came and made houses there. This is how Makkah was built.



One day, Allah ordered the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to build the Kabah — the House of God.

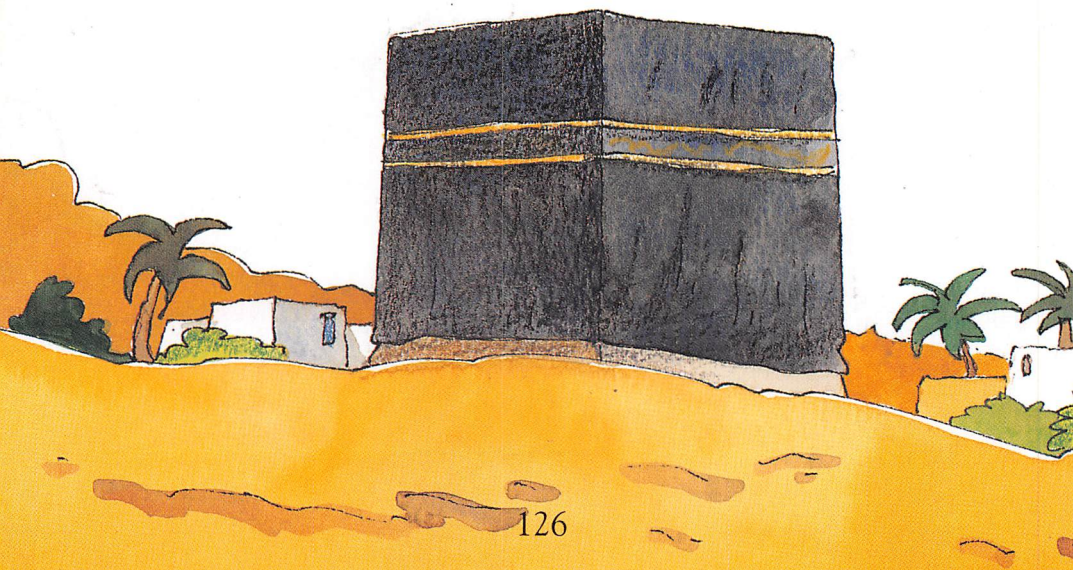
The Prophets Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail climbed the hills. They found big stones. They pushed the heavy stones down and put them in one place. When they had lots of stones, they started to build the House.


They made the walls. After that, they made the roof. It was a simple but beautiful house.



All the time, while building the House of God, they prayed:
“Our Lord! Accept our work! Accept this House we are
making for You.”

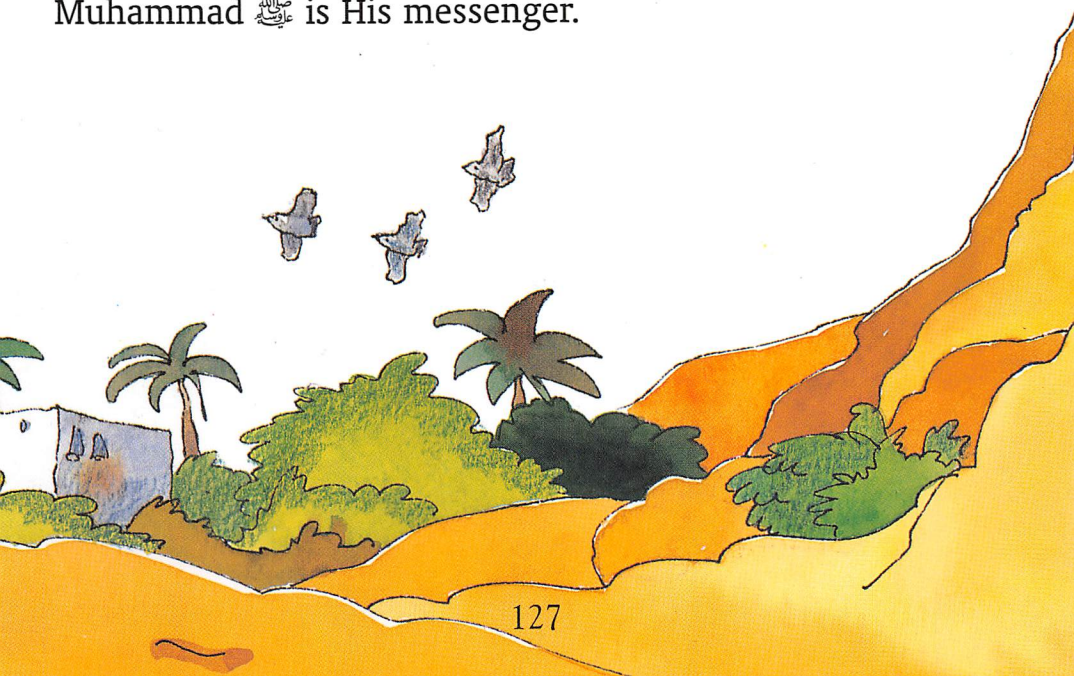
They also prayed: “Make us good so that we always bow to
Allah and pray to Him. Make our people good. Make our
people love You and bow to you and pray to You. Be
merciful to our people. Make them turn away from
anything bad and wicked.





Let a great prophet be born in our family. Hear our prayers.
You are the Most Merciful.”

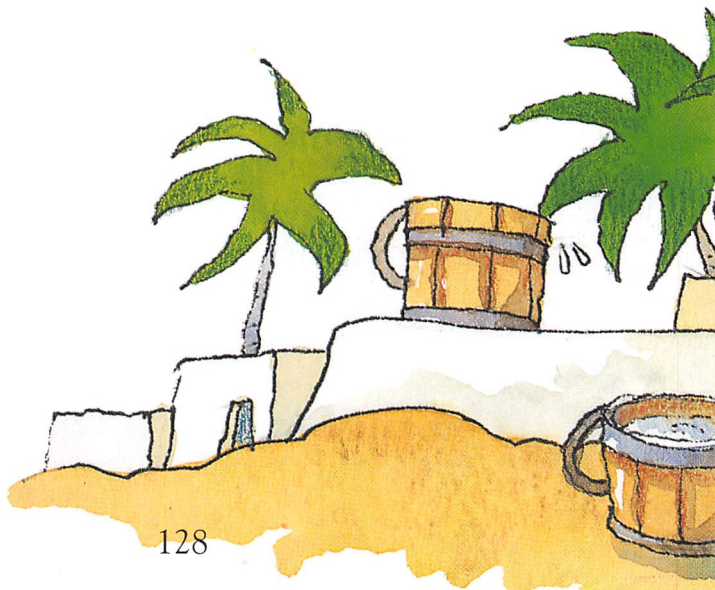
Allah listened to their prayer. Many, many years later, a
great prophet was born in Arabia. He was the Prophet
Muhammad ﷺ. There is no god but Allah and
Muhammad ﷺ is His messenger.



The First call to Hajj

Once the House of Allah was ready, Allah said to Ibrahim:
 “Clean the Kabah. Make it clean and pure.
 Then people can come and pray.”

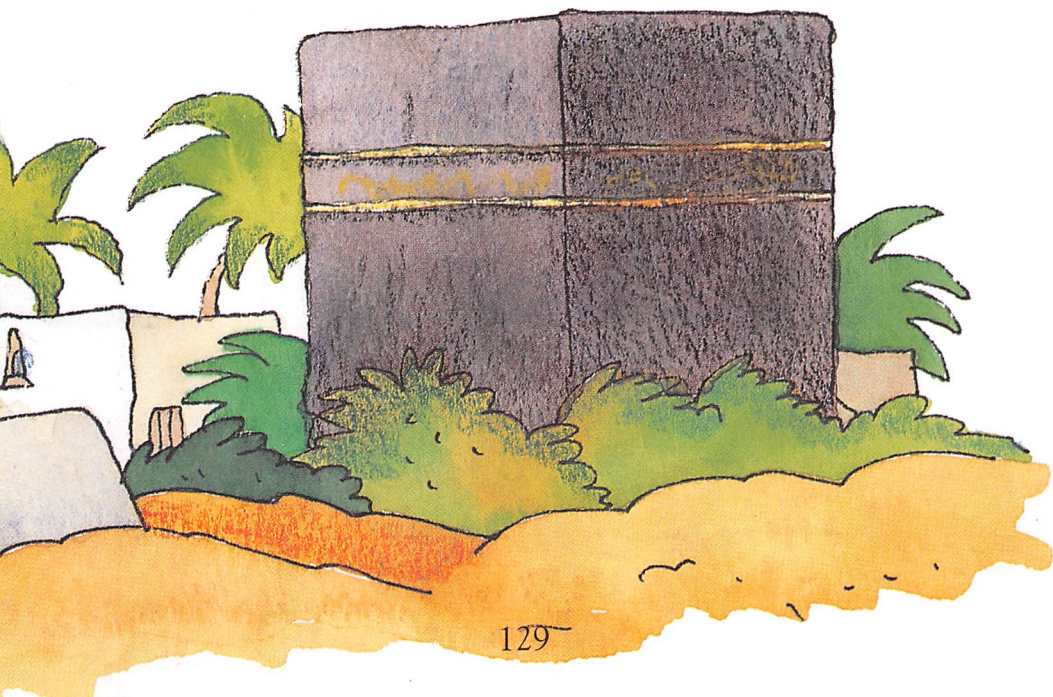
Allah also said: “This is my House. Do not keep anything
 else here. Then people may pray to Me in peace.
 They should walk around Kabah. They should pray
 standing. They should bow and prostrate themselves
 in prayer.”



Allah ordered the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام: "Call people to come to the Kabah. Call people to Hajj. Call them to pray together in the House of Allah."

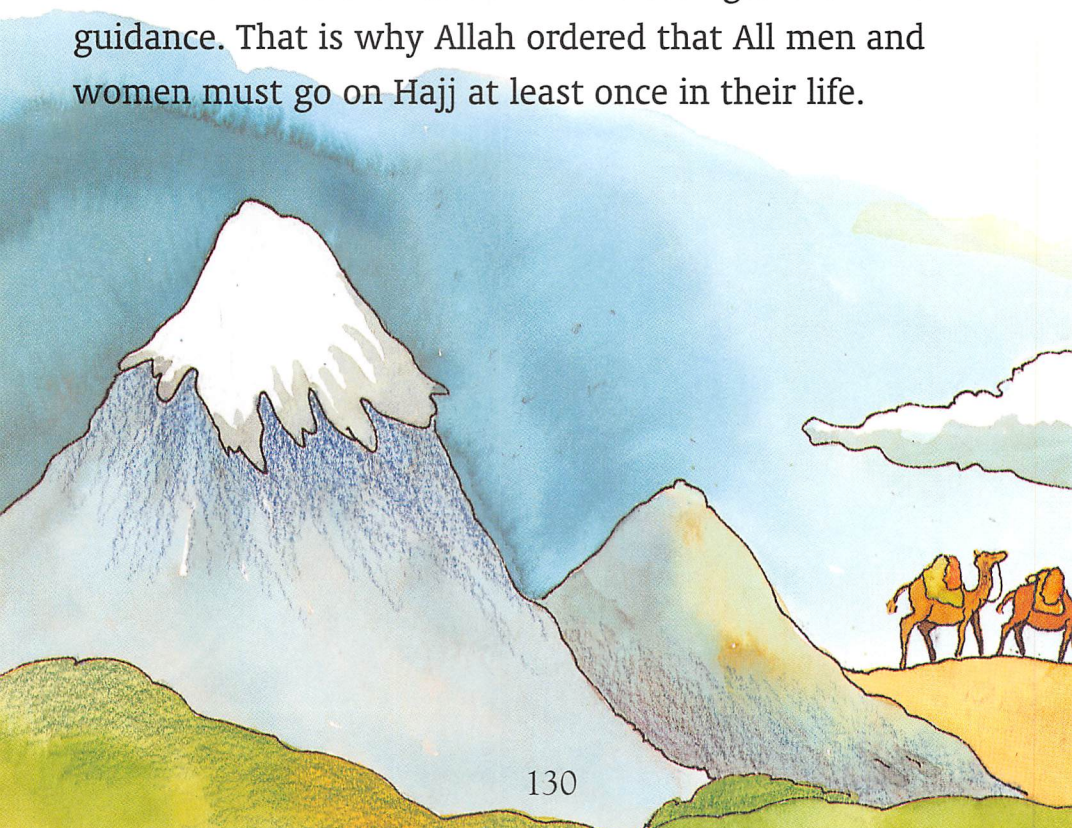
People in all corners of Arabia heard the call to Hajj. They came to Makkah. Some came on foot.

Some came riding swift camels. Some came alone and some came with family and friends. Some came from far, far away. They had to cross deep valleys and high mountains and hot deserts.



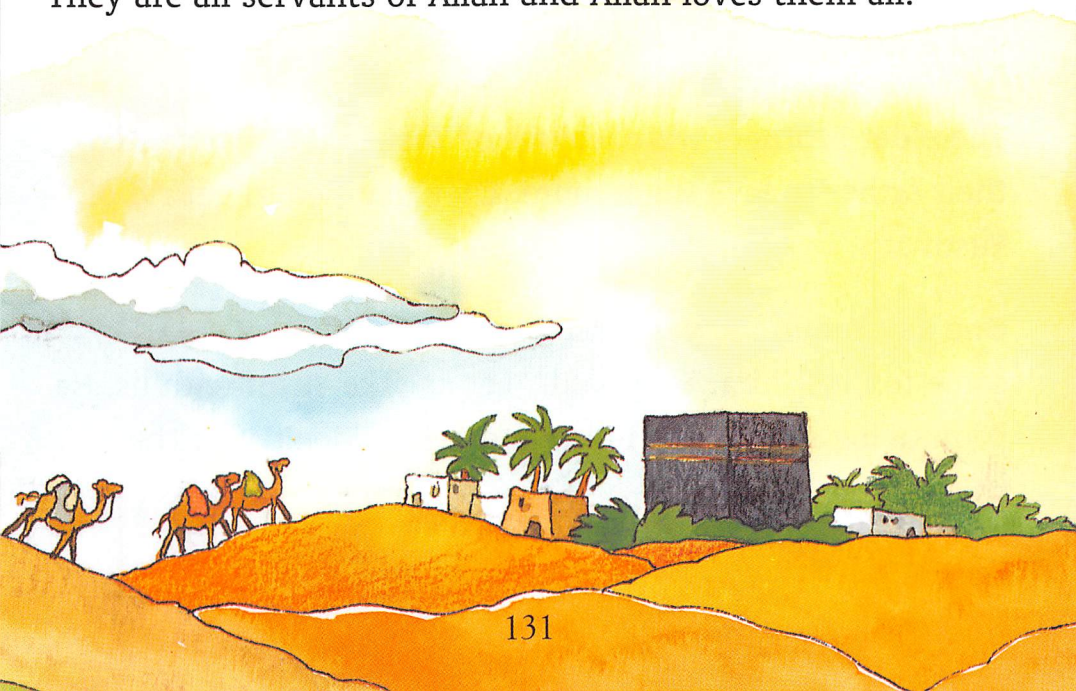
They were so tired that they could not stand. But they all hurried to Makkah. They all wanted to pray in the Kabah. They all came on Hajj.

Why were people called to Hajj? They were called to come to the Kabah. They were called to come to the House of Allah. They were called to pray to Allah, who made the world. They were called to bow to Allah, who was their Lord. The House of Allah is full of blessings. It is full of guidance. That is why Allah ordered that All men and women must go on Hajj at least once in their life.

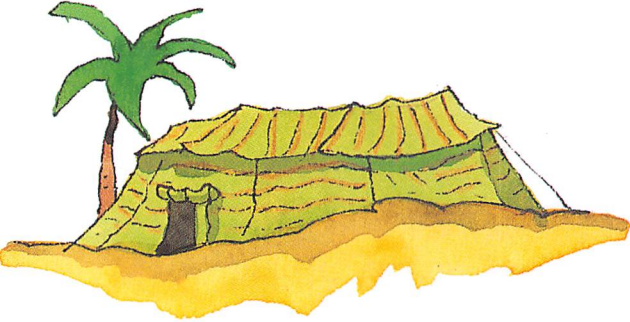


They must come and pray there. Allah also fixed the days for Hajj, and ordered people to perform Hajj at that time. And sacrifice a goat or other animal. This is to remember how the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail obeyed Him.

Once a year believers go on Hajj. They travel from all over the world. They come in planes, in boats, in cars and buses. They all come to the Kabah in Makkah. They stand together and pray. Grown-ups and children, rich people and poor people, people from many countries: all of them pray together. They are all brothers and sisters in Islam. They are all servants of Allah and Allah loves them all.



The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام and His Brothers



A long time ago, there lived an old man. His name was Yaqub, or Jacob عليه السلام, and he was a prophet. The Prophet

Yaqub عليه السلام had twelve sons. He loved them all. But most of all he loved his two youngest sons: the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام and Bin Yameen.

The elder brothers were jealous of Yusuf عليه السلام. They wanted their father to love them more. They planned to get rid of Yusuf عليه السلام.

One day Yaqub عليه السلام was sitting in front of his tent. His sons came to meet him. They said: "Let us take Yusuf with us. He is quite big now. He can play and we will look after the sheep."

The Prophet Yaqub عليه السلام did not like this idea. But he let the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام go with his elder brothers.

When they were a little away from the village, they got hold of the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام. Then they threw him into a dry well.

The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام landed at the bottom of the well. He looked up. He could see sky far above his head. He thought: "The well is very deep. I cannot climb that high. What should I do?" He became very scared.



By chance a caravan was passing nearby. It was very hot. Both men and camels were very thirsty. One man spotted the well. He said to others: "Let's get some water from the well."

Some men came to the well. One of them took a bucket on a rope and dropped it into the well.

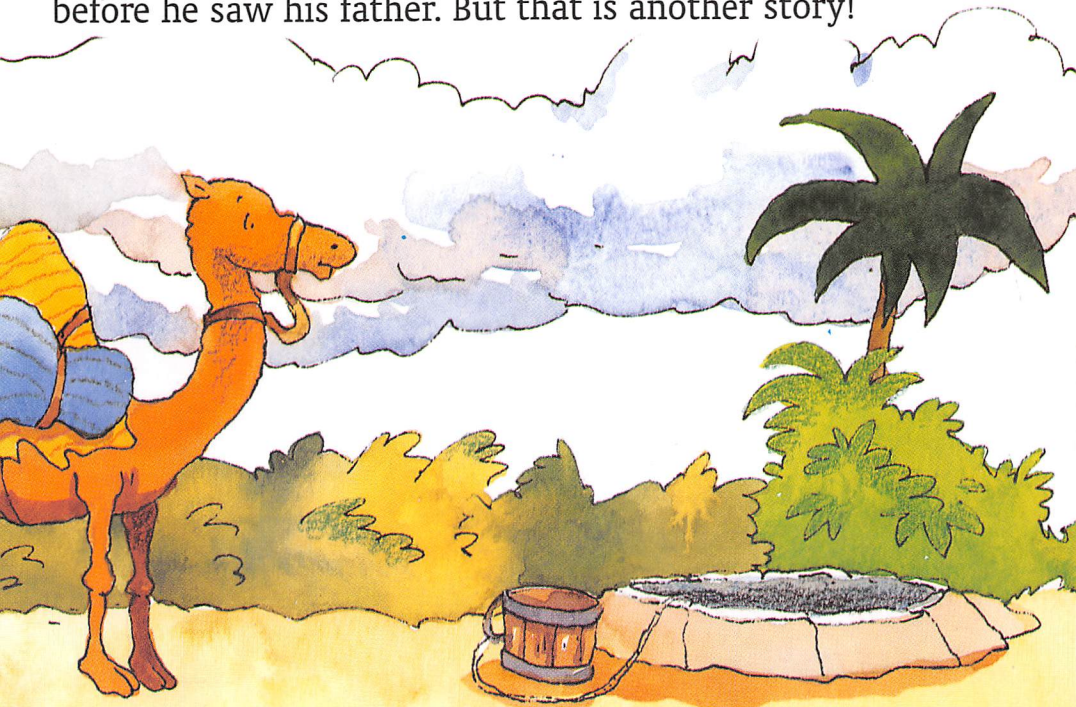
Then he pulled the bucket up. And what did they see? There was a boy clinging to the bucket!



They started to shout: "A boy! A boy!" Everybody crowded around the well. They were very surprised.

They were going to Egypt and decided to take the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام with them. They said: "We will sell him in the market. Some rich man will surely buy him." In Egypt they sold him to Aziz.

The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام grew up in Egypt. It was many years before he saw his brothers again. And many more years before he saw his father. But that is another story!



The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام and the King's Dream

Yusuf عليه السلام was a prophet of Allah. Allah always gives special gifts to the prophets. He also gave the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام a special gift. He taught Yusuf عليه السلام to understand dreams.

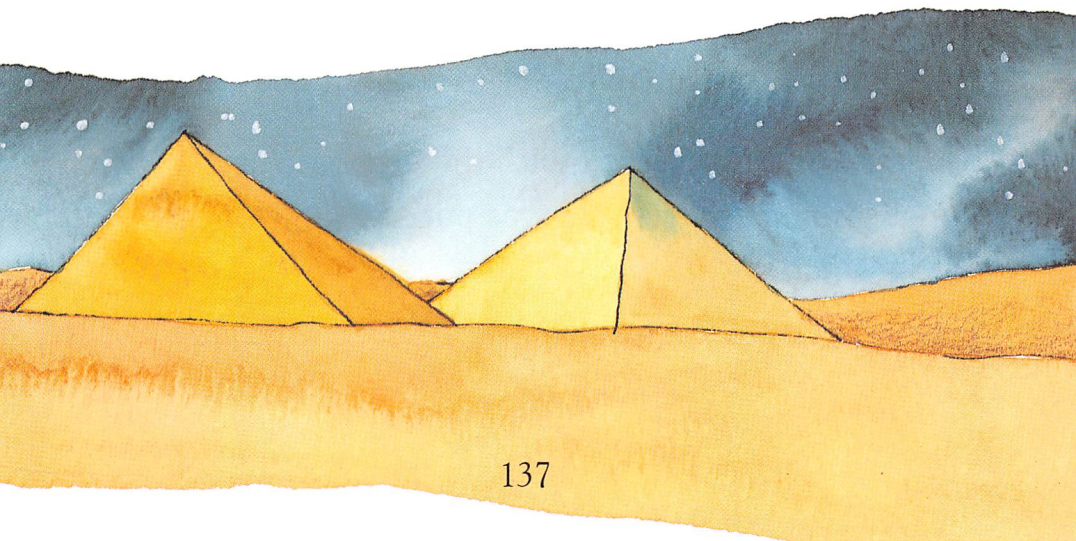
One day the king of Egypt had a strange dream. This is what he saw: There were seven fat cows in a field. Then came seven thin cows and they ate the seven fat cows. After that, the king saw seven green ears of corn. Then these seven green ears of corn turned yellow.

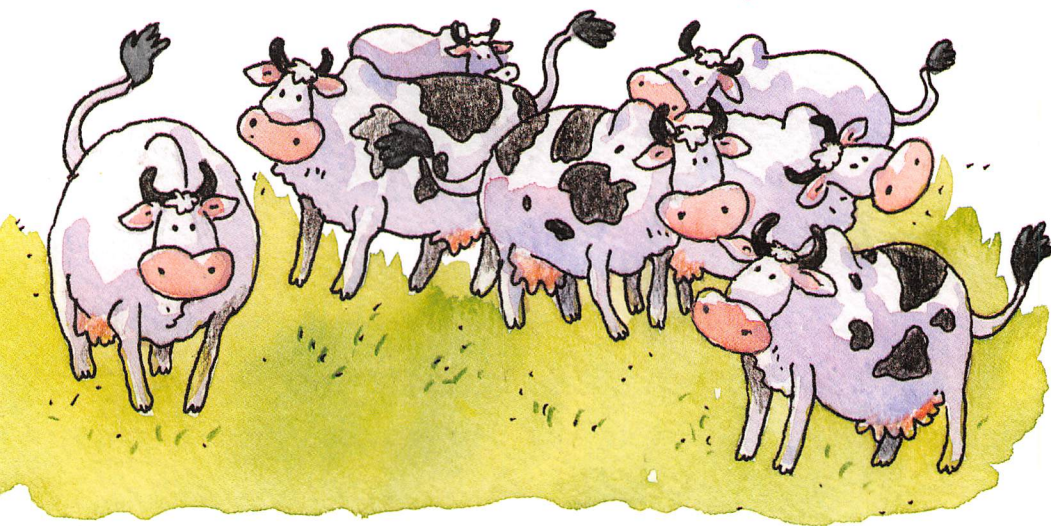


The next day, the king called all the wise men. He told them about his dream. He asked them: "What does this dream mean? Why do the thin cows eat the fat cows? Why do the green ears of corn turn yellow?" Nobody knew the answer.

One of the king's servants knew the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام. He knew that the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام could understand dreams. He told king about him. The king told him to call the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام.

The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام came to the palace. The king told him his dream. He asked him: "Do you know what this dream means?"





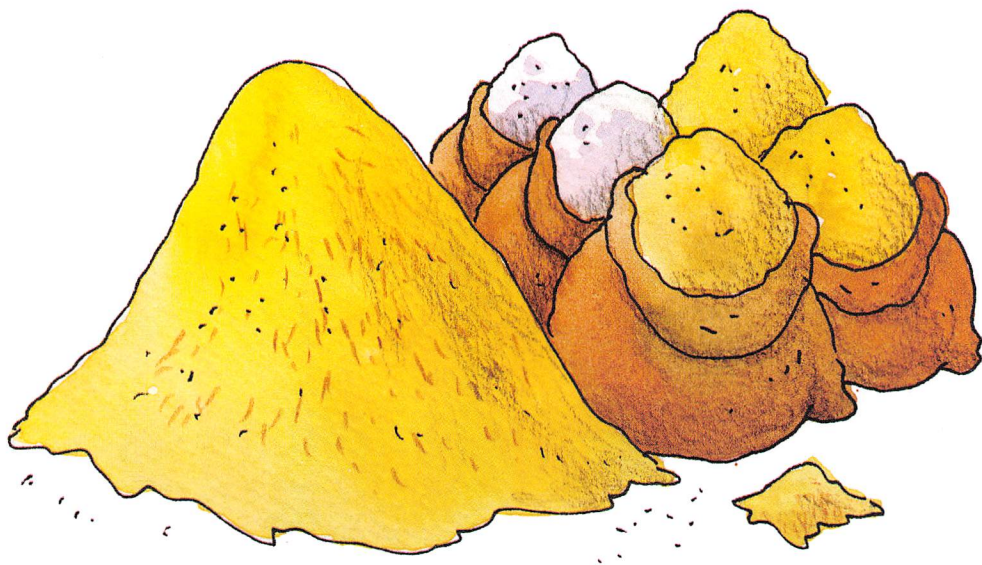
The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام explained: “Seven fat cows means seven years of prosperity. After seven years of prosperity will come seven years of drought. Seven green ears of corn turning yellow means the same thing. After seven years of good harvests, there will be seven years of bad harvests.”

The king was very pleased with the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام. He made him a minister. He was put in charge of the king’s granaries.

For seven years the harvests were very good. The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام saved all the extra wheat in the granaries. When the drought came, the fields became dry. No corn could grow on the dry land.

Then the Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام opened the granaries. He gave wheat to the people. Nobody went hungry.

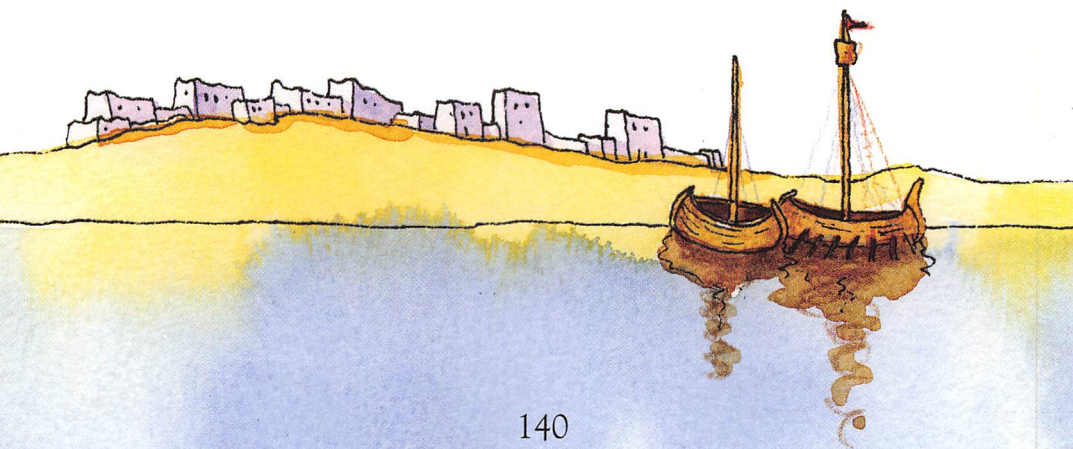
Allah looks after his people. He sends prophets to guide them. People who listen to what the prophets say are saved.





The Prophet Shuyab عليه السلام and the Earthquake

A long, long time ago, there were two cities. They were called Madyan and Ayka. Madyan and Ayka were on the coast of the Red Sea. Many ships crossed the sea and came there. In the ships came foreign merchants. They brought beautiful things from other countries to sell in the market. The people of Madyan and Ayka bought the beautiful things. They loaded them on their camels. Then they travelled with their camels across the desert.

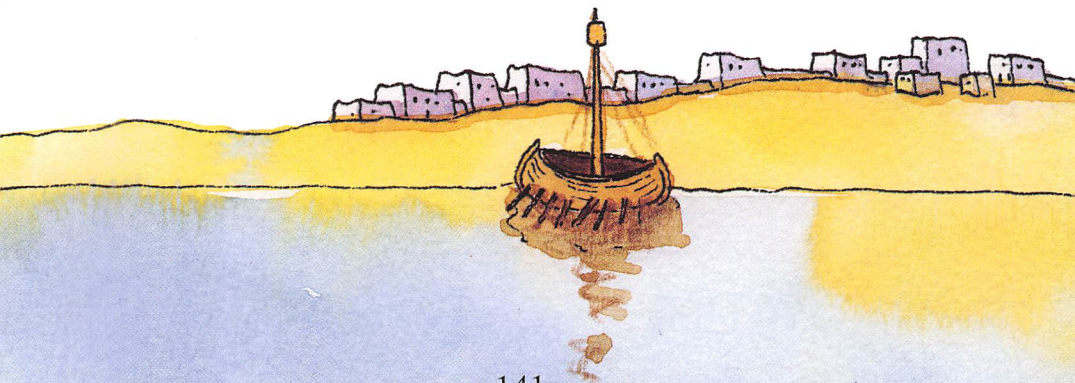


And they sold the beautiful foreign goods to people in other cities. The people of Madyan and Ayka were very clever traders. They had big shops in the markets.

The shops were always crowded. They had many camels to carry their goods to other places. They made lots of money. And they became very rich. Their riches made them proud. They forgot about Allah.

They started to cheat in their shops. They asked high prices for their goods. They even used wrong weights and wrong measures.

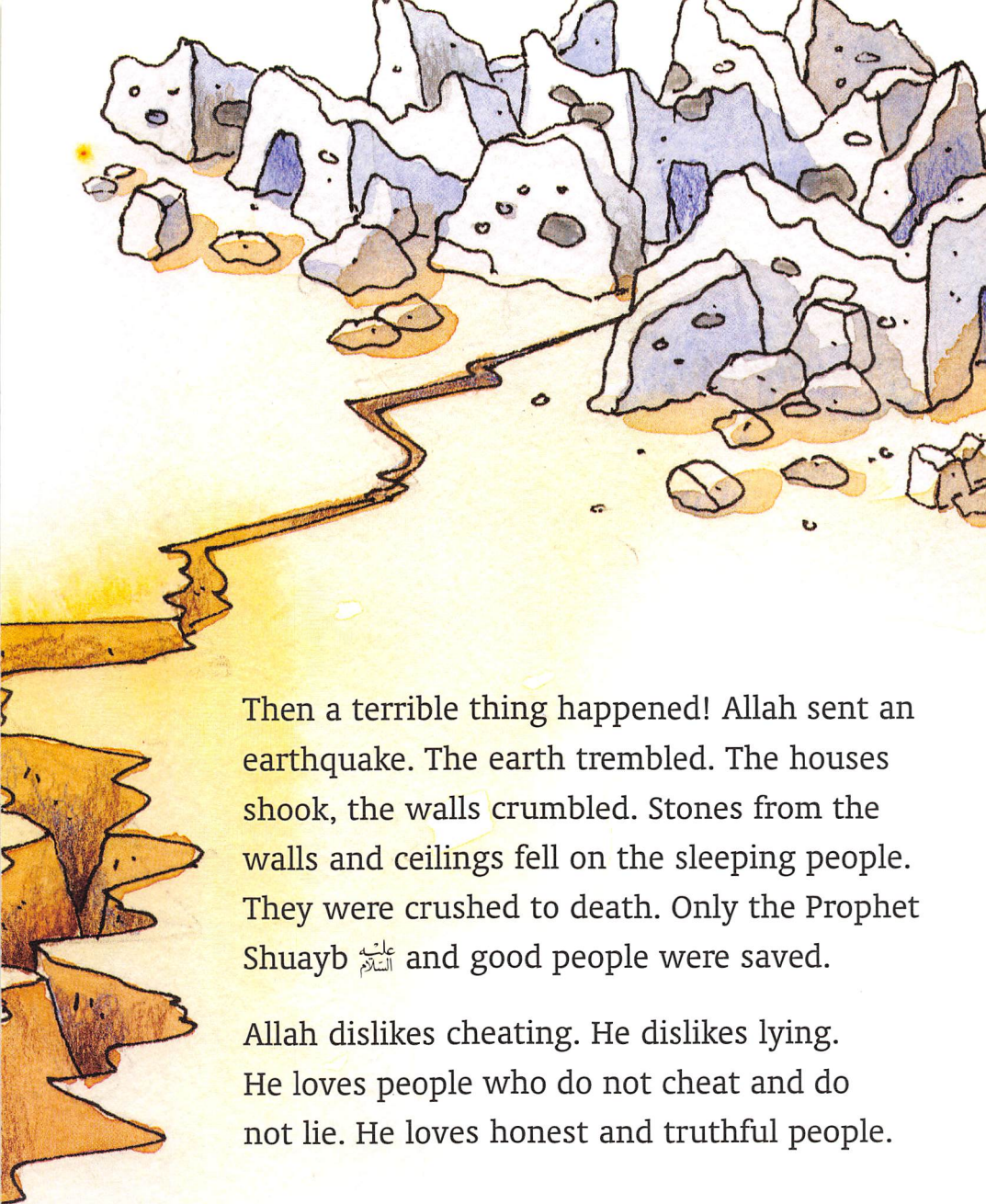
Allah did not like what they did. He sent the Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام to them. The Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام told them not to cheat.



He said: "Weigh things properly! Measure things properly! Give people what they pay for!" The leaders of the people laughed at the Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام.

They said: "We will do what we want. You are alone! You are weak! Why should we listen to you! Leave the city! And stop preaching or we will stone you! We don't want you to give us any advice!" Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام said: "I do not want to argue with you, for that would mean my doing what I forbid you to do. I am trying only to reform you as far as I am able... In Him I have put my trust, and to Him I turn to say sorry for whatever I have done wrong."

Allah waited for the people to listen to the Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام. He waited for them to stop cheating. But they did not bother about what the Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام said.



Then a terrible thing happened! Allah sent an earthquake. The earth trembled. The houses shook, the walls crumbled. Stones from the walls and ceilings fell on the sleeping people. They were crushed to death. Only the Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام and good people were saved.

Allah dislikes cheating. He dislikes lying. He loves people who do not cheat and do not lie. He loves honest and truthful people.



The Most Patient Man



A long time ago, in the land
of Syria, there lived a man.
His name was Ayub, or Job.
He loved Allah very much.
And Allah made him very wise.
And He made him a very rich man.
He was also a prophet.

The Prophet Ayub عليه السلام had many fields.
He had many sheep. His house was very big.
There were many servants in the house.





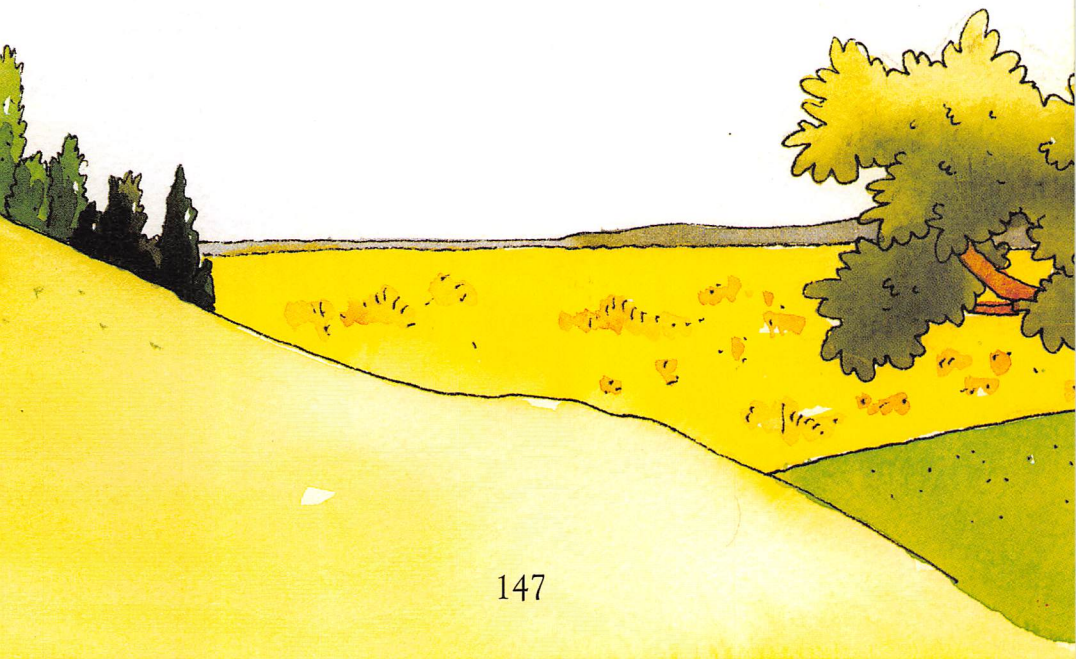


And his children were very good. The Prophet Ayub عليه السلام knew that everything came from Allah.

He knew that Allah gave him fields, sheep and money. He prayed to Allah, thanking Him for the gifts.



The village people said: “It is easy for Ayyub to love Allah. It is easy for him to pray every day. He is rich and he has a lot of time. We are poor. We don’t have beautiful houses and fields.



If Ayyub were poor like us, he would never love Allah so much! He would not pray all the time!”

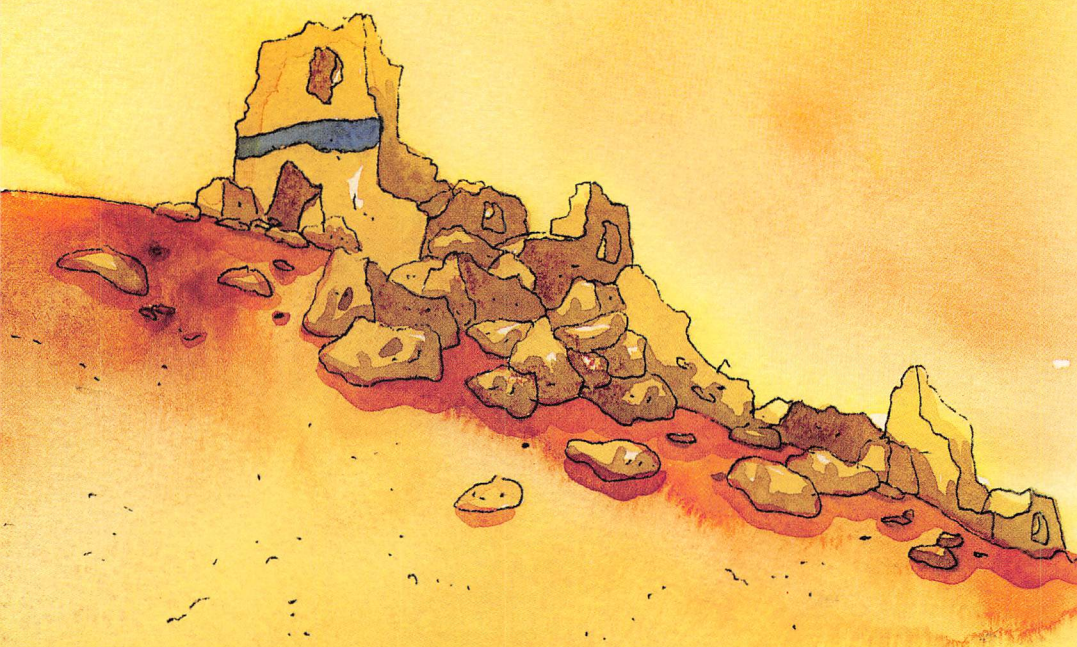
Allah wanted to show people that they were wrong, so He tested the Prophet Ayub عليه السلام. He wanted to show them that the Prophet Ayub عليه السلام would never stop loving Him. So He put the Prophet Ayub عليه السلام to the test.



One day, the Prophet Ayub's sheep got lost. The next day, all the water in the fields and gardens dried up.

The Prophet Ayub عليه السلام became poor. His family members died. The Prophet Ayub عليه السلام was left all alone. And then he got sick.





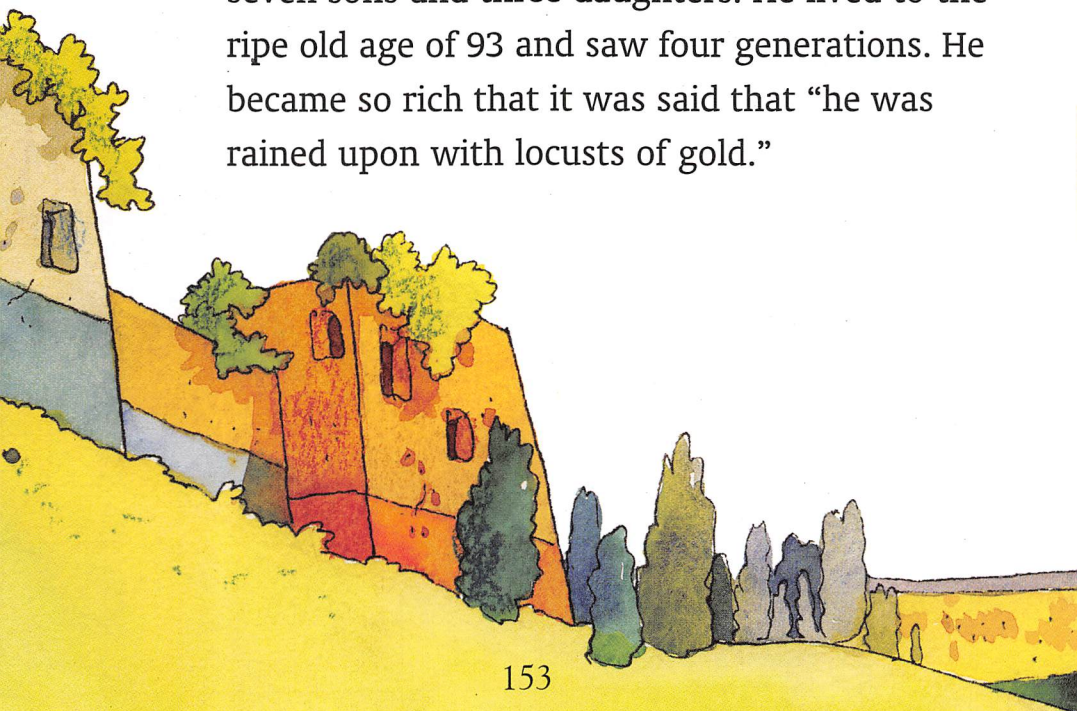
The Prophet Ayub عليه السلام did not complain. He did not stop praying to Allah. He knew Allah would help him. He praised Allah: "I am overcome by distress. But You are the Most Merciful of all those that are merciful."

Allah liked the Prophet Ayub's patience. He said to Ayyub: "Strike your feet on the ground." And a spring gushed forth. Allah commanded the Prophet Ayub عليه السلام to have a bath with the spring water and he will be healthy again.



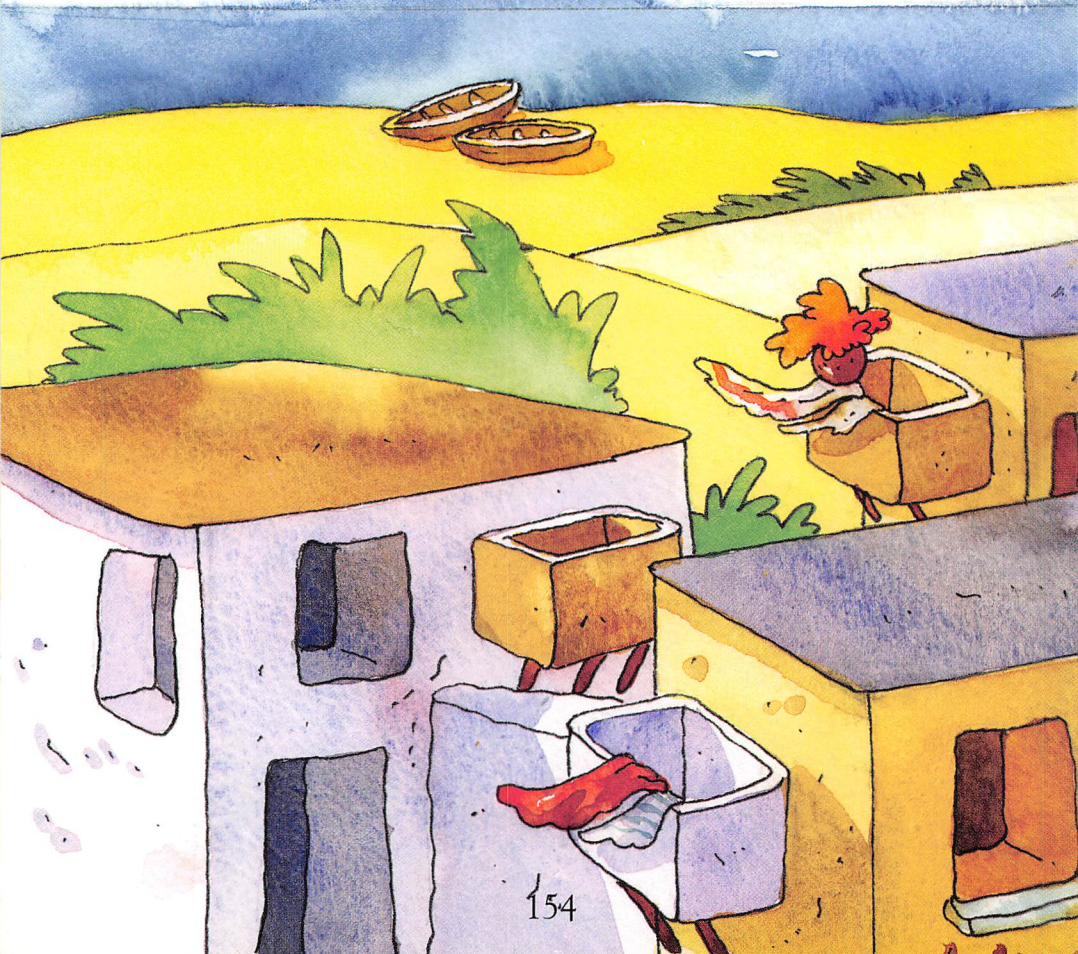
The Prophet Ayub عليه السلام became well again. Allah again gave him a big house. He gave him fields and sheep. He gave him many children. He made him even richer than before.

Because the Prophet Ayub عليه السلام had showed great patience throughout the worst of disasters, Allah not only rewarded him with great bounty in the Hereafter, but redoubled his former prosperity in this world. He had a new family of seven sons and three daughters. He lived to the ripe old age of 93 and saw four generations. He became so rich that it was said that "he was rained upon with locusts of gold."

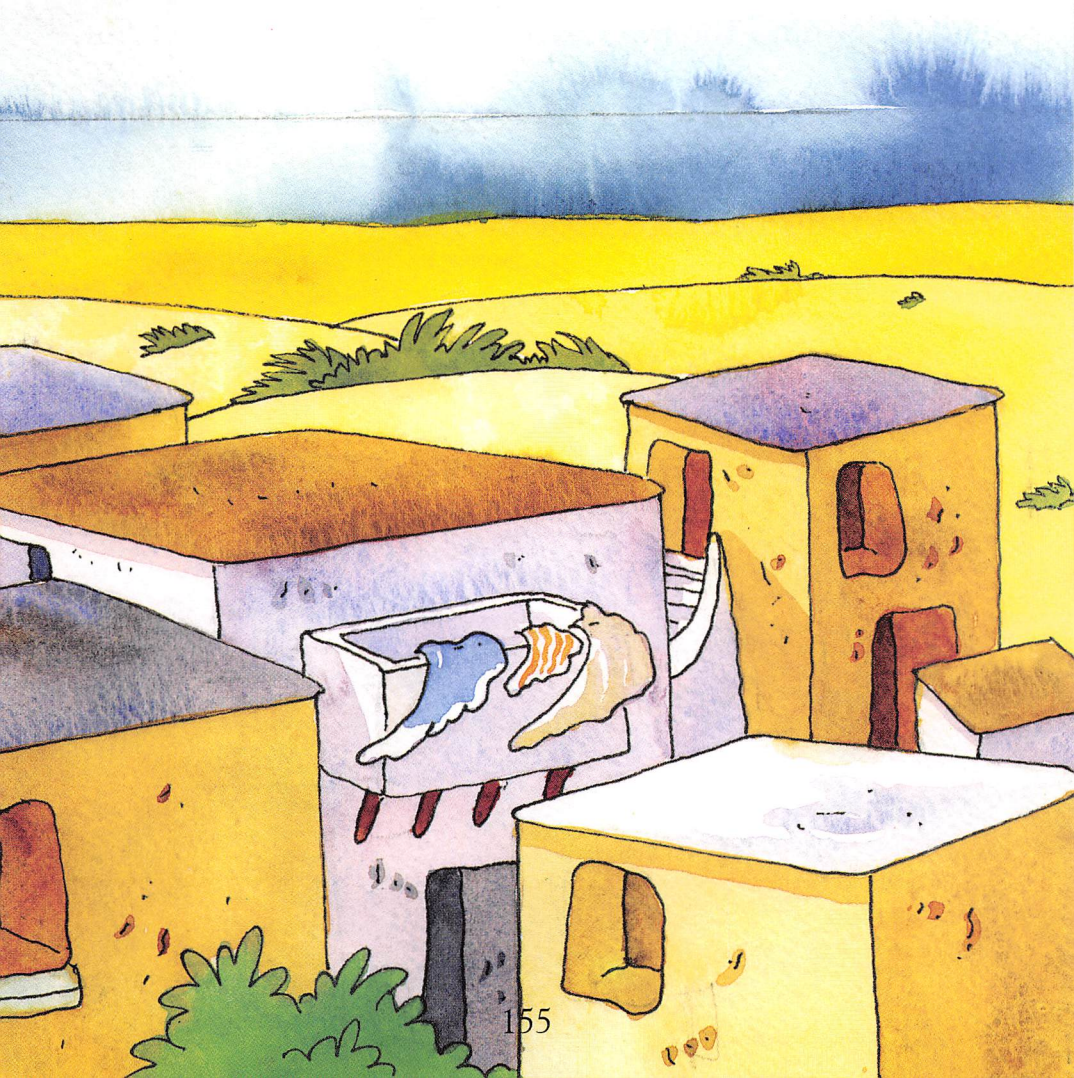


The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام and the Big Fish

This happened a long, long time ago. In the city of Nineveh there lived a man.

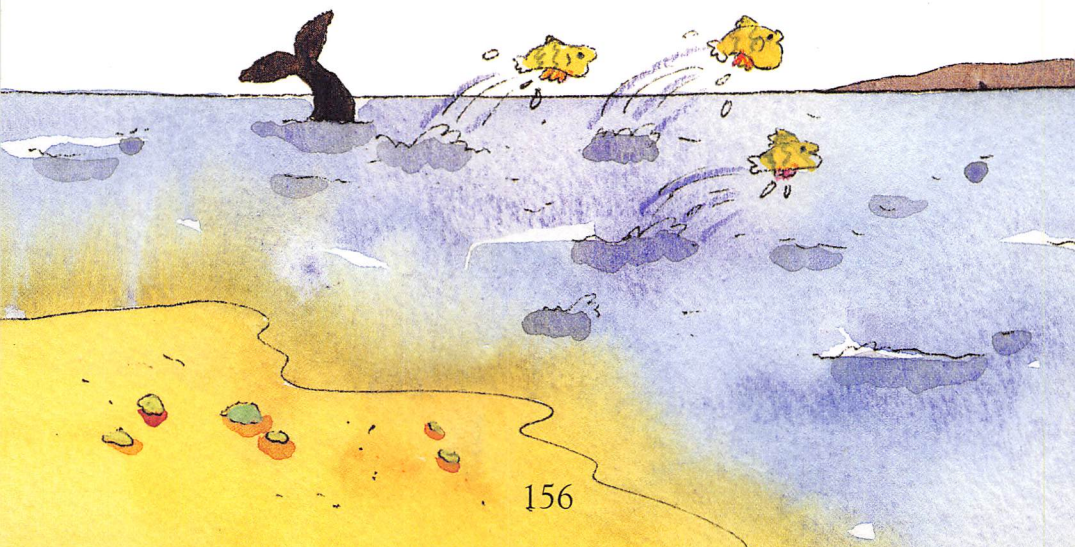


He was called Yunus, or Jonah عليه السلام. And he was a prophet of Allah. Allah sends prophets when He wants to tell people something special. He sent the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام to teach people about Allah.

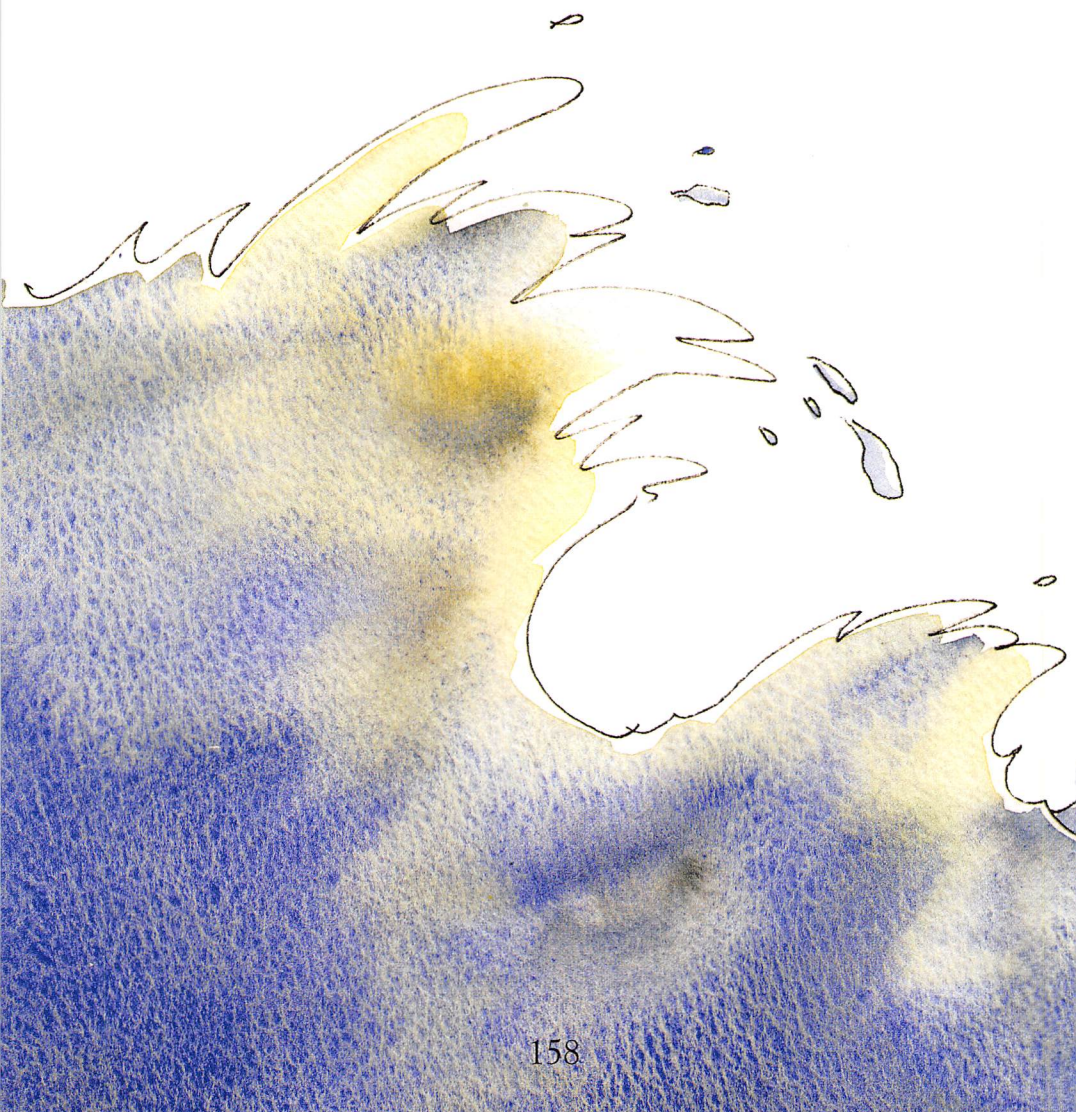


But the people did not listen to the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام. They laughed at him. The Prohpet Yunus عليه السلام got very angry with these people and moved away from the city of Nineveh.

He went to the seashore. A ship was about to sail. Without thinking twice, he jumped on board the ship.

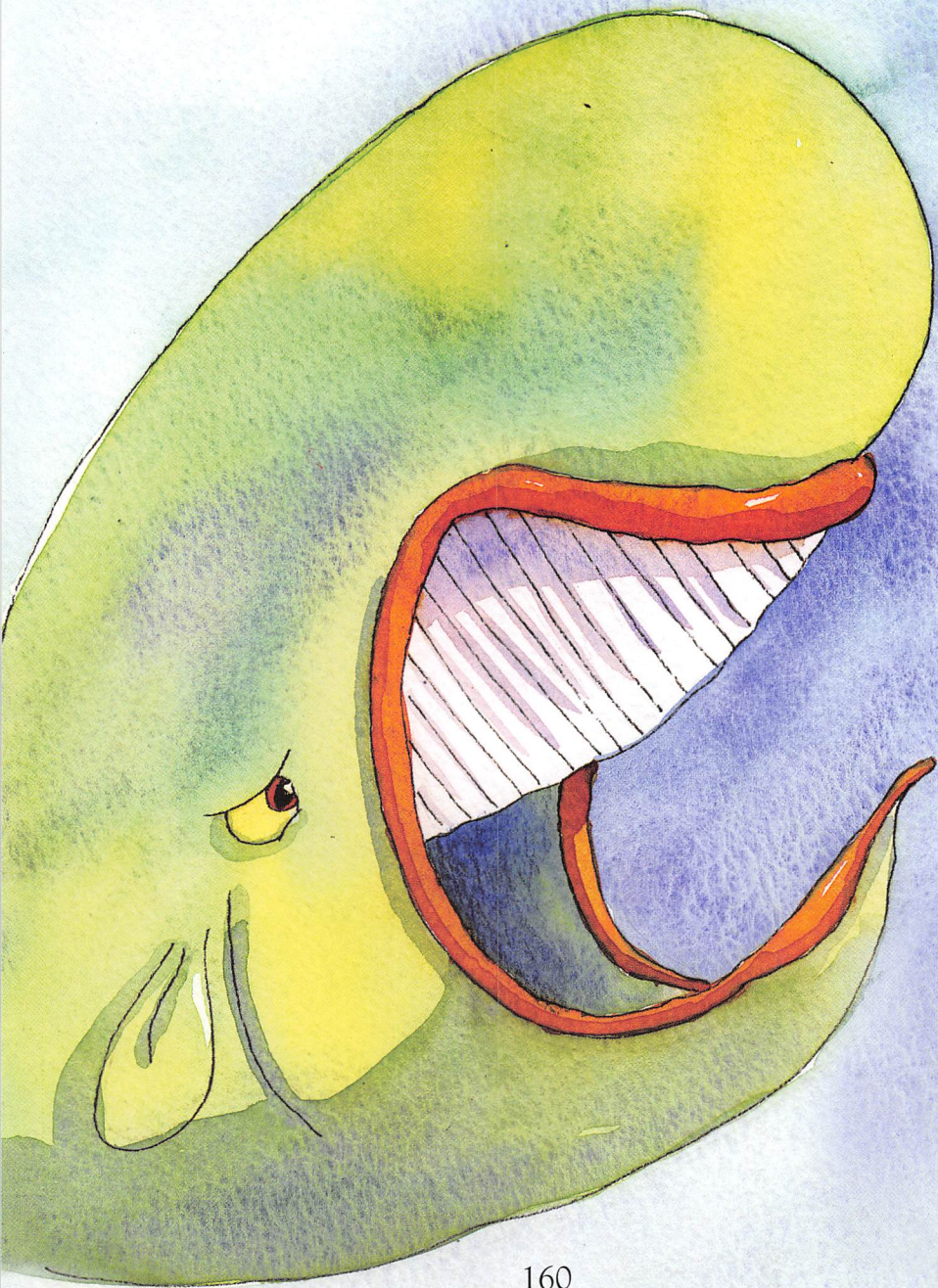






The ship was in the middle of the sea. Suddenly it became dark and a strong wind began to blow. A terrible storm tossed the ship to and fro. The sailors and passengers got scared. They got hold of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام and threw him overboard.



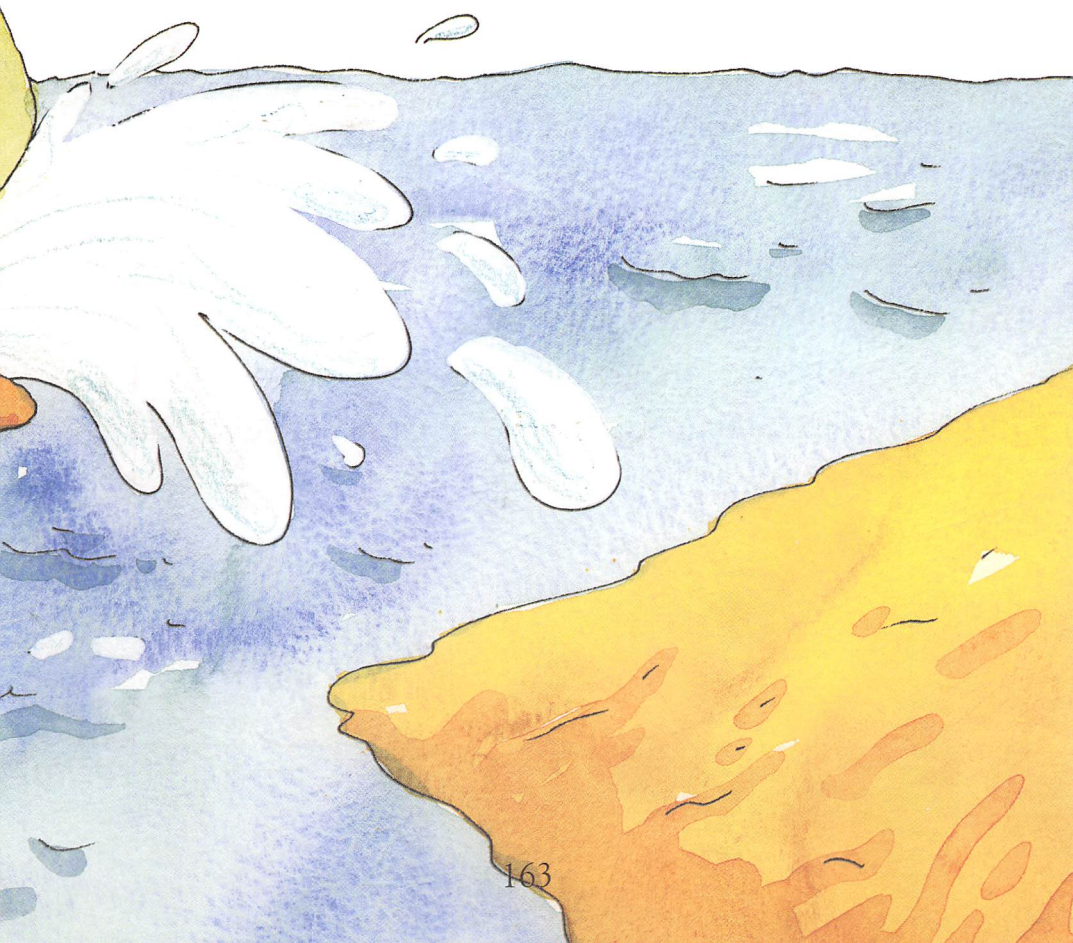


The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام tried to swim. But a big fish came and swallowed him. Soon he found himself inside its huge stomach. Frightened, he remembered Allah. He prayed: "There is no god but You! Glory be to You! I have done wrong." And he realised that he shouldn't have run away from his people, as he had not done what Allah wanted him to do!





Allah heard his prayer. He told the fish to take the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام to the shore. In no time he found himself on a sandy beach. The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام rested on the beach. He drank some water from a spring. He ate some juicy fruit from a tree. Then he returned to his home town.

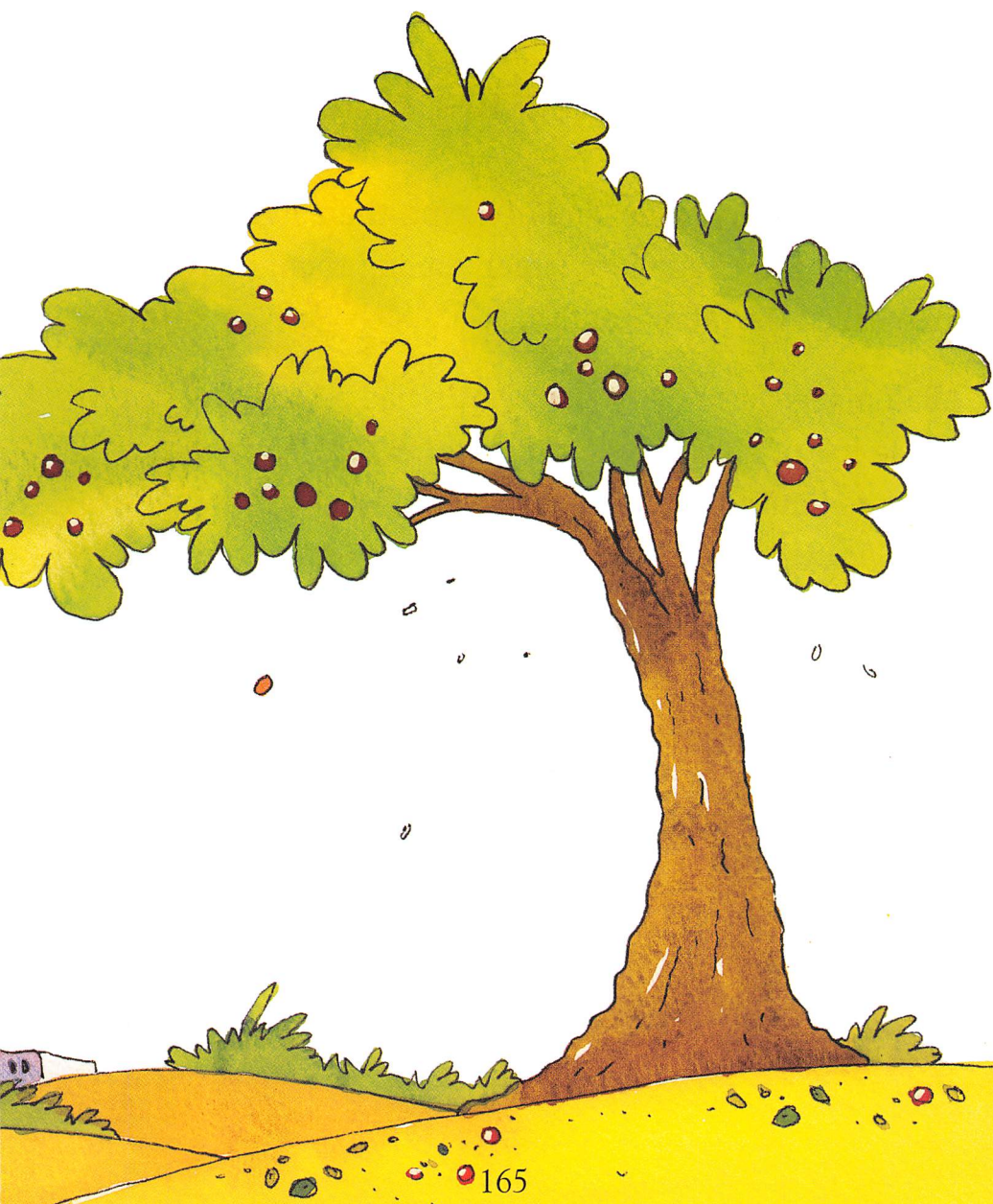


People gathered around the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام. He called them to Allah and warned them of the Day of Judgement. A most surprising thing happened! Everybody began to listen to the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام! Everybody started to pray to Allah!

Allah helps us to be successful. But He does not like us to leave the work halfway. With Allah's help we can finish every piece of work! He helps us with everything!

The lesson in the story of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام is twofold. Firstly, the great duty to deliver the message of Allah to others now falls on every Muslim. If we ignore this duty and become desperate (as the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام was at first), we will be found guilty of not carrying out the task set for us by Allah.

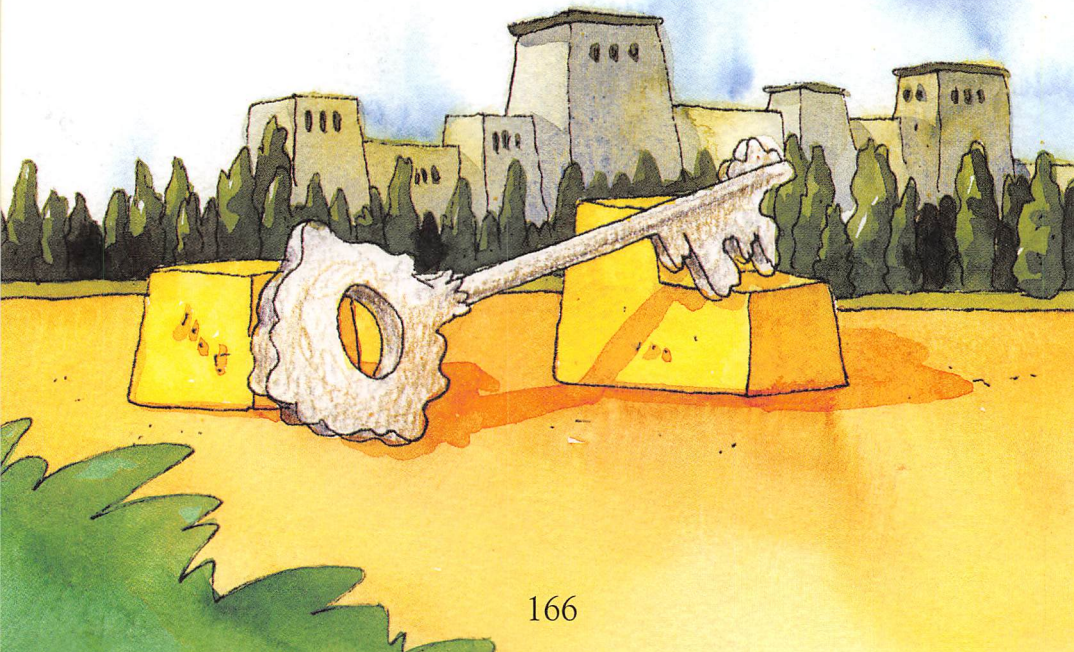




The Treasure House

A long time ago in the land of Egypt, there lived a tribe known as the Children of Israel. Among them there was a man called Qarun or Korah.

Allah made Qarun very rich. Qarun had a huge treasure house full of gold and precious stones. The keys of the treasure house were huge and heavy. Many strong men were needed to pick them up and put them in the lock.



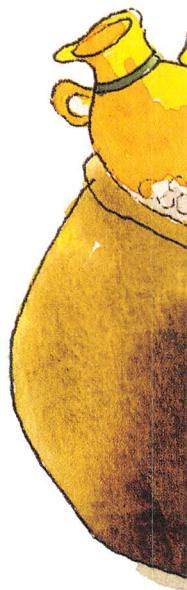


At that time a king called Firawn ruled Egypt. He was a very cruel king. He hated the Children of Israel. He was very mean and unkind to them.

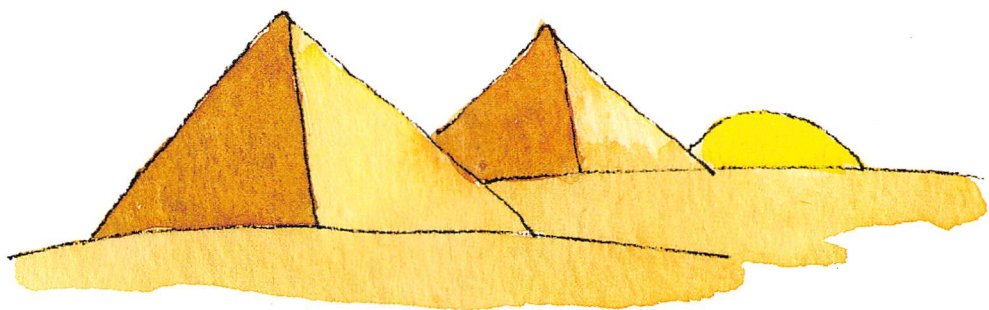
Qarun began to work for the cruel king. Soon he became his minister. Now he was not only rich but also very important. He started to look down upon his own people. Like Firawn, he was cruel and unkind to them.

People said to Qarun: "You are rich. But you should not be proud because you are rich. Allah does not like proud people. He does not like people who do not share things with others."

Qarun said: "I am clever and I am intelligent. That's why I am rich."



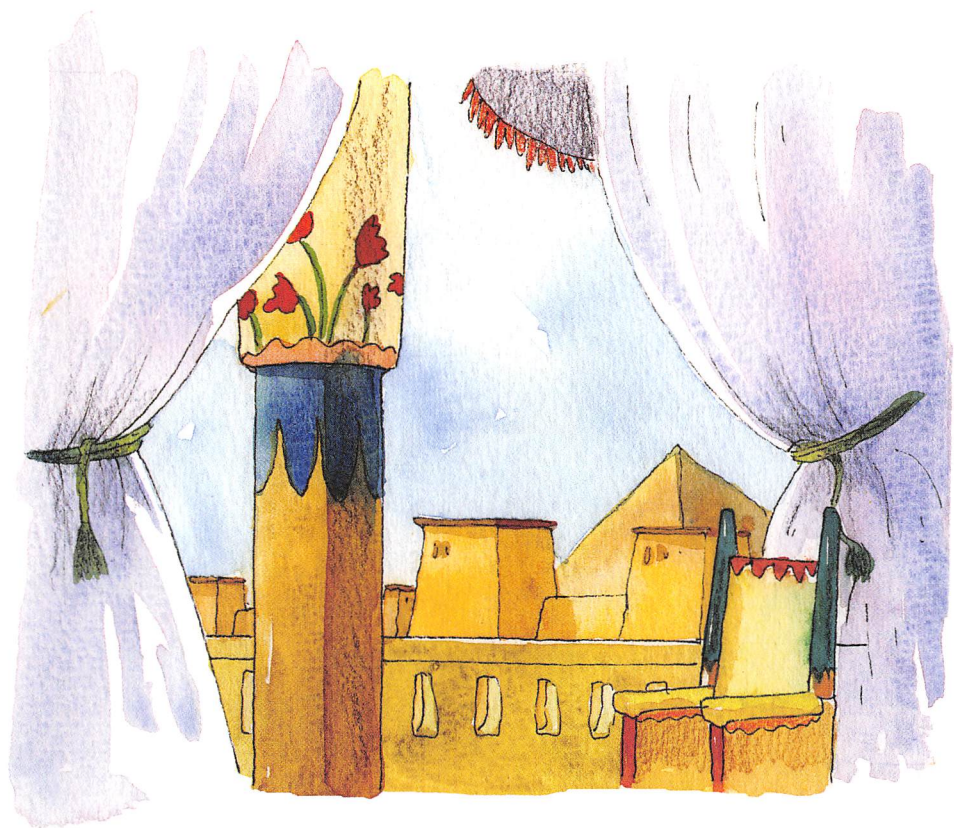


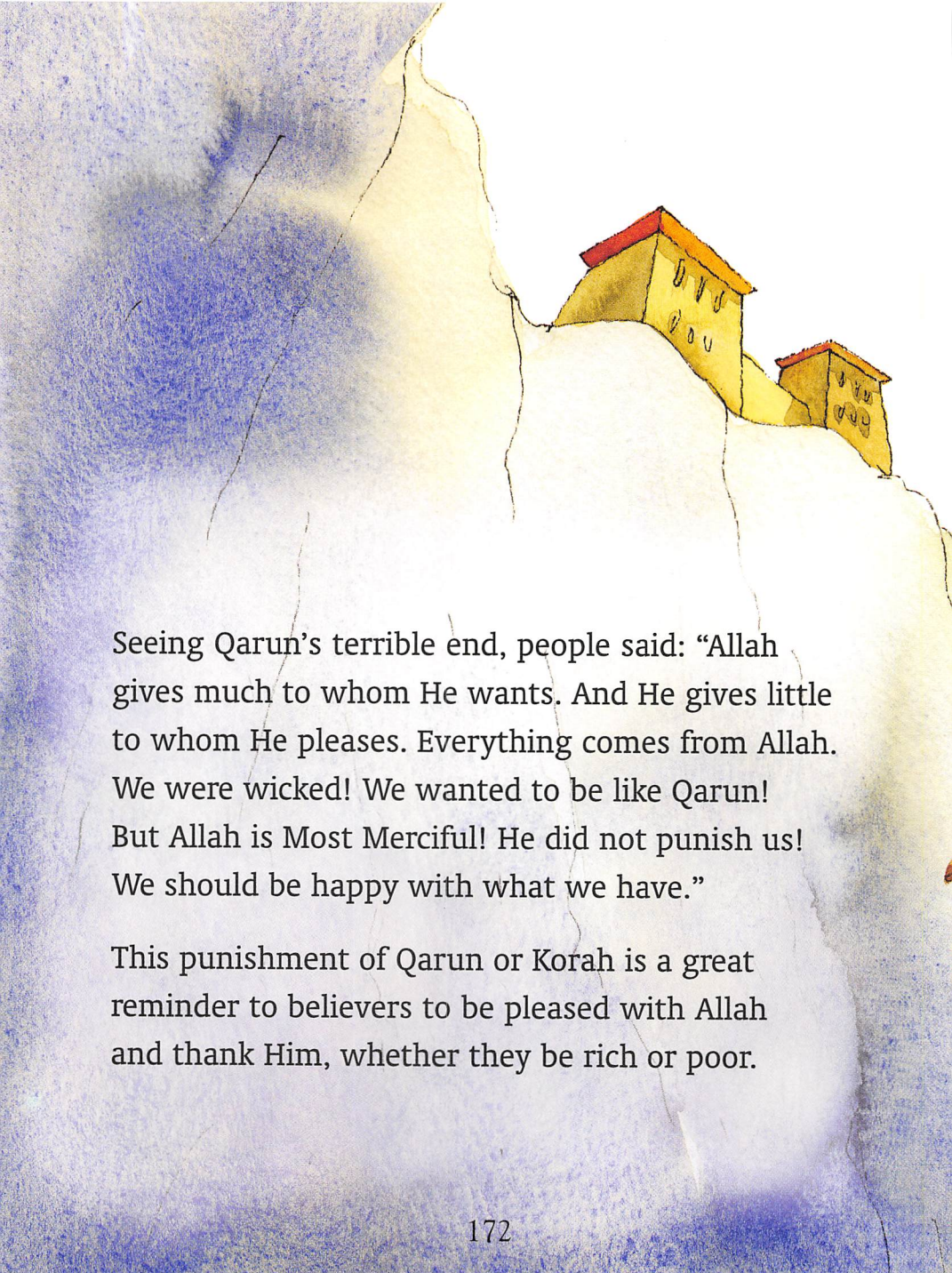


He did not fear Allah. He showed off his fine clothes, his jewels, and his palace. Some people were impressed with Qarun. They said: “Qarun is very lucky! We wish we were as rich as him.”

But people who loved Allah said: “Allah knows best! He knows what is best for us. And in the end it is the prizes Allah gives that are the best.”

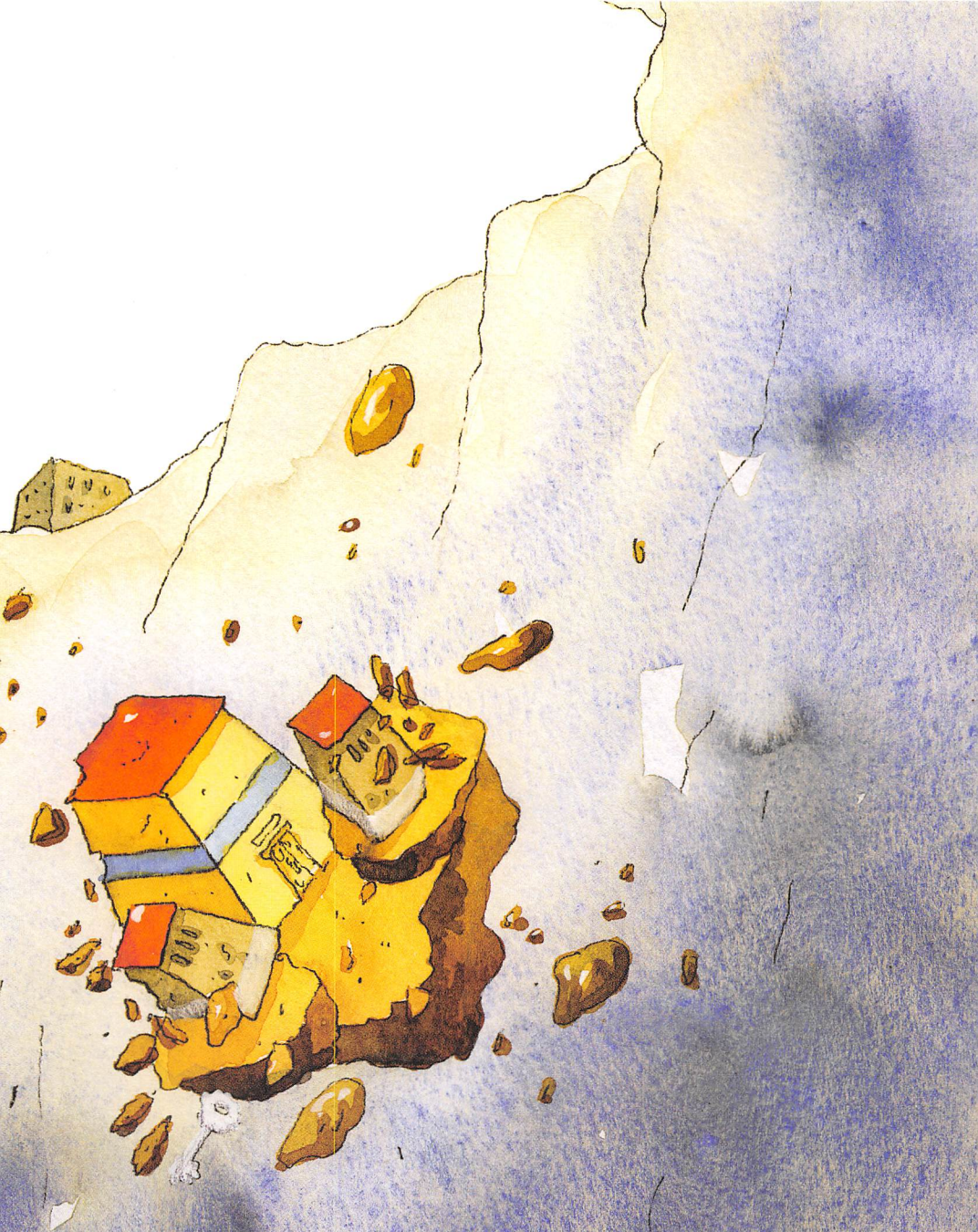
Then a terrible thing happened!
The earth opened up and swallowed Qarun!
It swallowed Qarun, and his riches, and his treasure
house together with its huge keys!





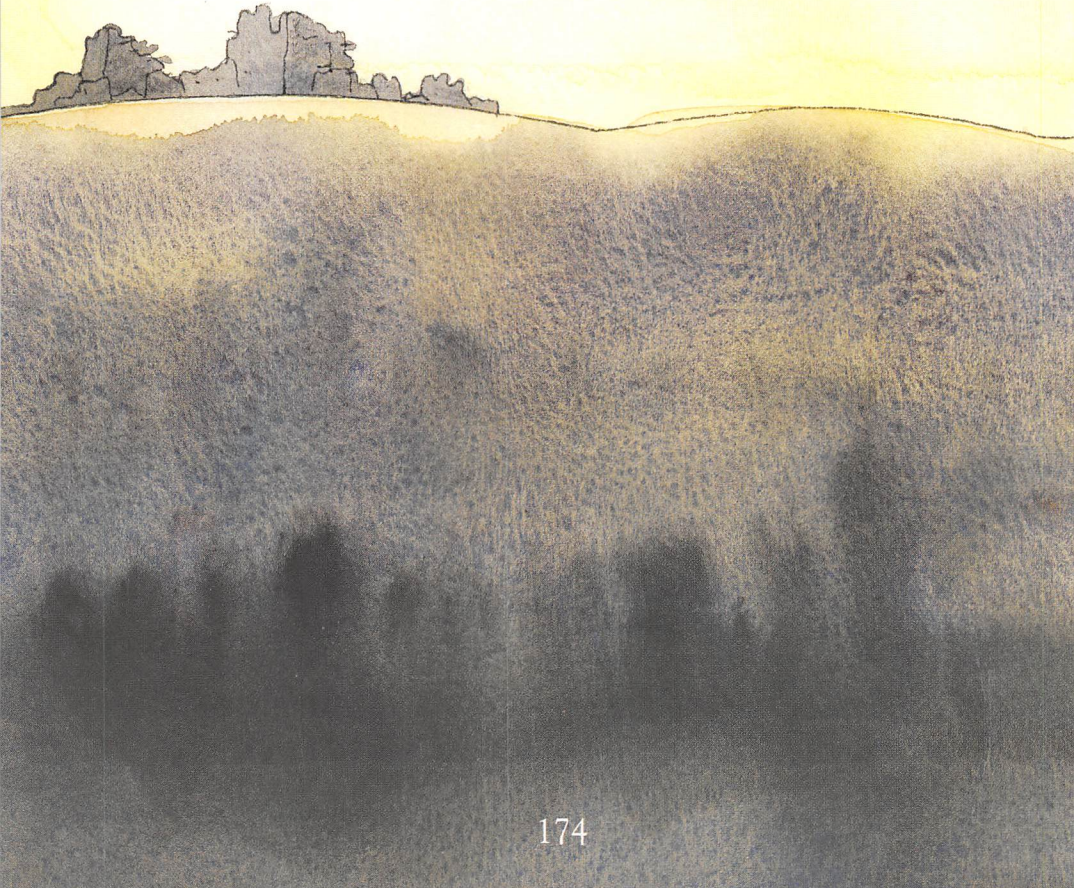
Seeing Qarun's terrible end, people said: "Allah gives much to whom He wants. And He gives little to whom He pleases. Everything comes from Allah. We were wicked! We wanted to be like Qarun! But Allah is Most Merciful! He did not punish us! We should be happy with what we have."

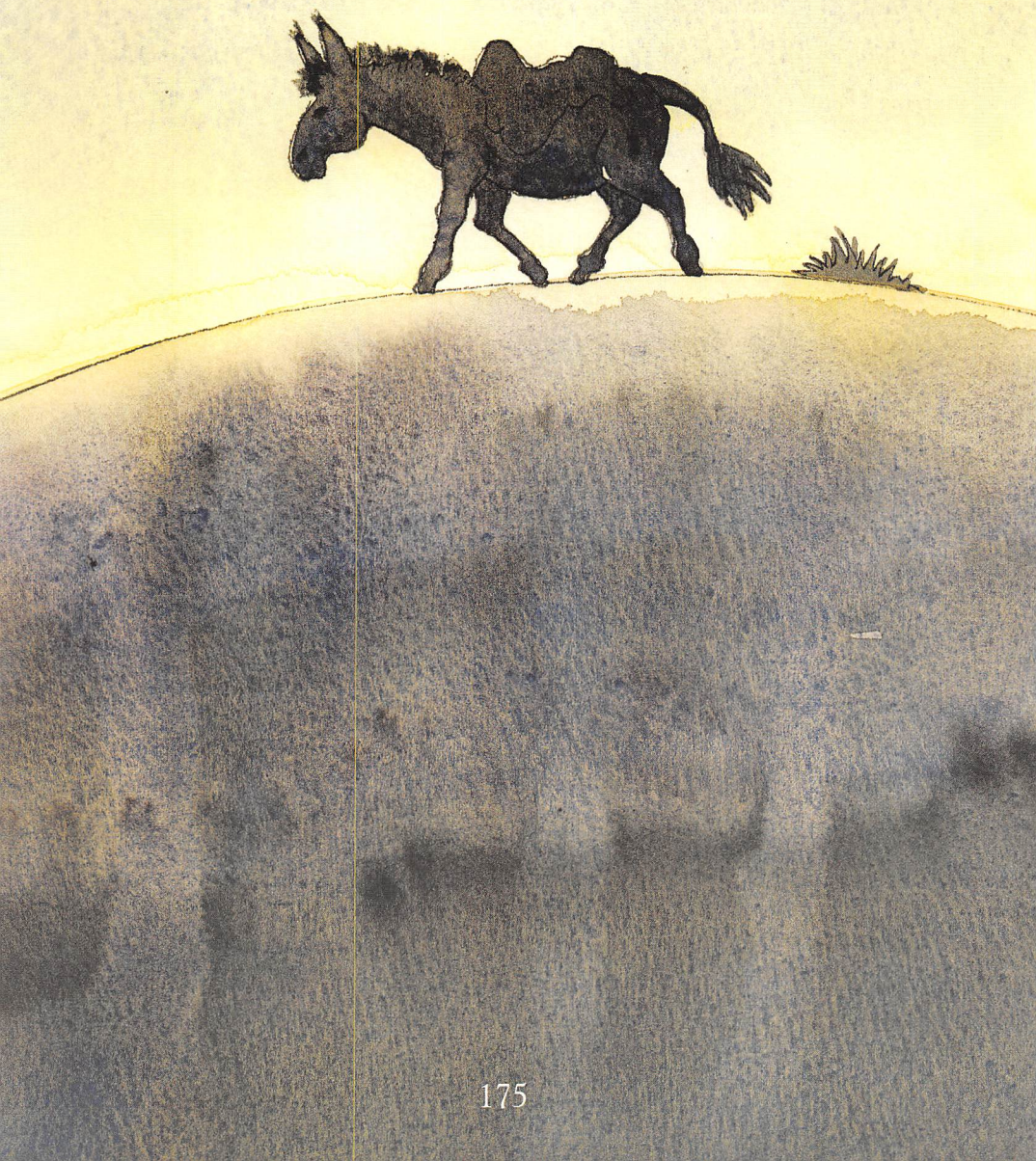
This punishment of Qarun or Korah is a great reminder to believers to be pleased with Allah and thank Him, whether they be rich or poor.



The Prophet Uzayr's Donkey

The Prophet Uzayr, or Ezra عليه السلام, was a very pious man.
He had a donkey. Riding it, he would travel far and wide.





One day he was riding his donkey as usual. He looked up and saw some ruins at the side of the road. It was an old, ruined town! No one lived there.

The Prophet Uzayr عليه السلام said: “How can Allah remake the city? How can He again make it full of people? It is totally dead!”



Allah hears and sees everything. He heard what the Prophet Uzayr عليه السلام said. In less than a moment, Allah caused him and his donkey to die.



One hundred years passed. Allah brought the Prophet Uzayr عليه السلام back to life. He asked the Prophet Uzayr عليه السلام: "Do you know how long you were dead?"

Uzayr عليه السلام said: "A day, or part of a day."

Allah said: "You were dead for one hundred years!"



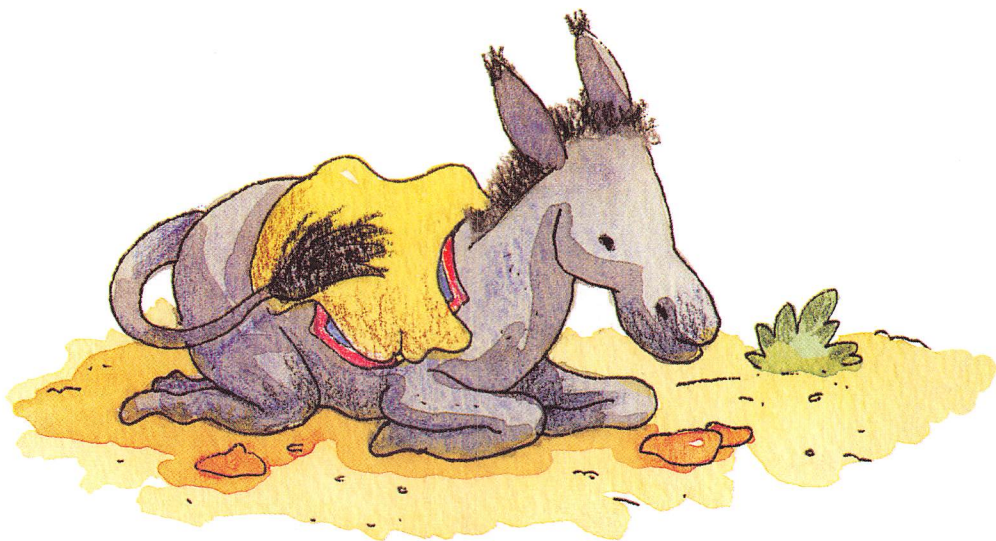
Allah said: "Look at your donkey. There are only bones left. But look what I can do. I will put flesh on the bones. And I will make the donkey alive once again."



The next moment, the Prophet Uzayr's donkey stood in front of him. The Prophet Uzayr عليه السلام looked around. The food and water he carried with him one hundred years back were spread on the grass.

He had a sip of the water. He put some food in his mouth. The water was fresh and the food was fresh!

The Prophet Uzayr عليه السلام looked again at the donkey.



He looked again at the food. He said: “Really, Allah has power over all things!”

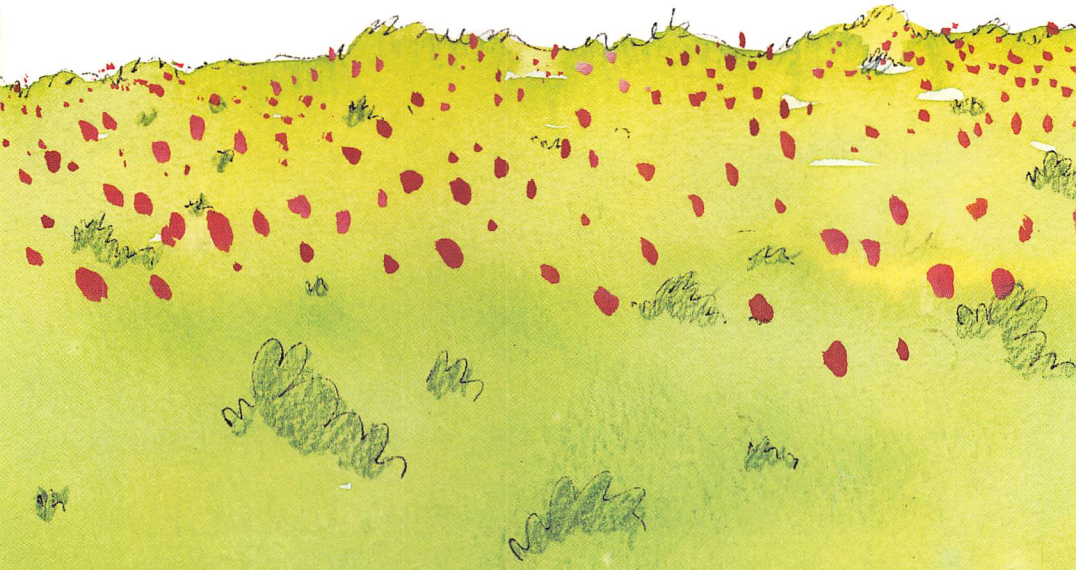
Allah made all the things. He will remake them and give them life in the Hereafter. Allah has power over all things. The story is told to reaffirm belief in the Hereafter and life after death.



Luqman's Advice

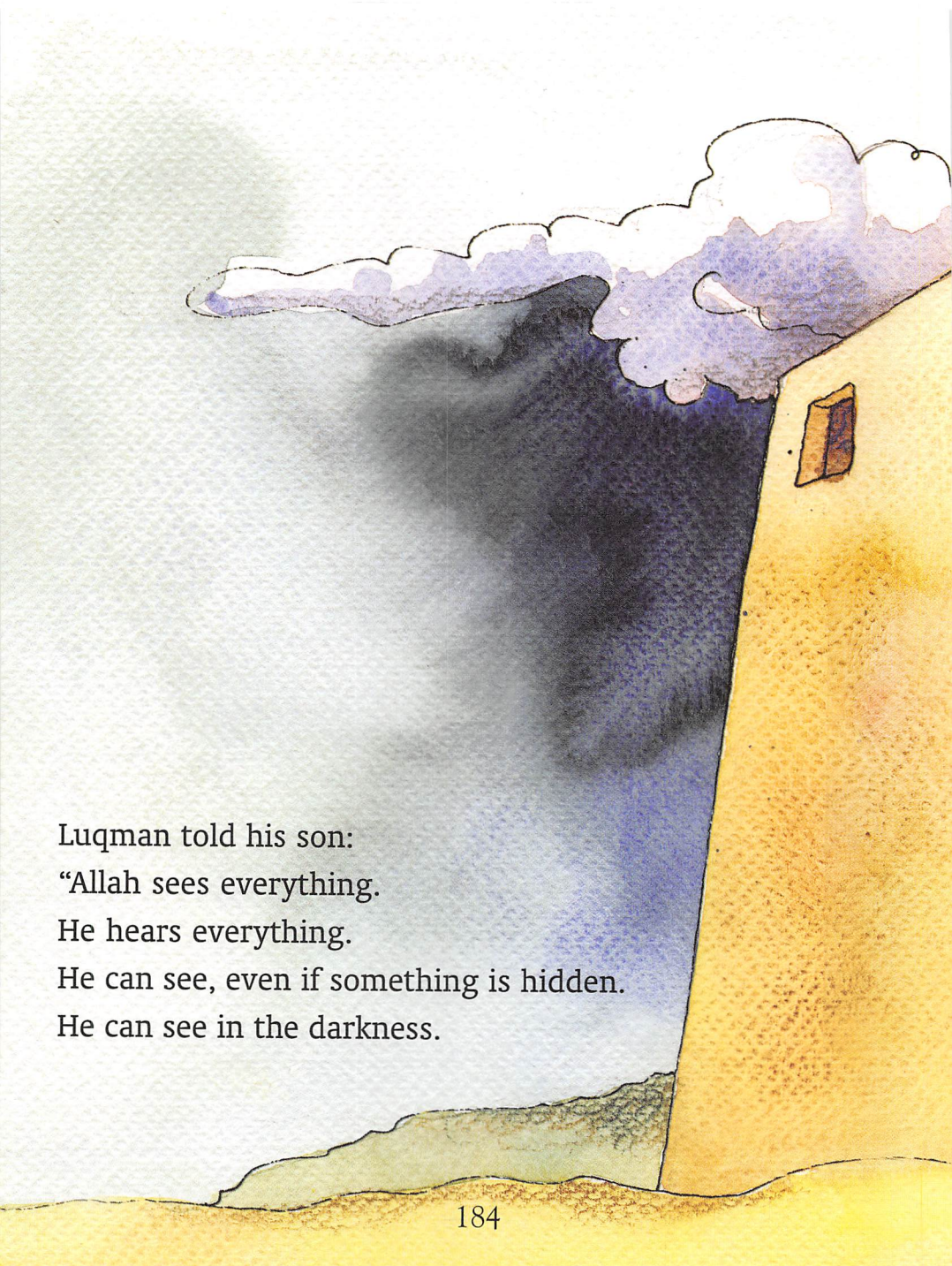
A long time ago, there lived a very, very wise man. His name was Luqman. He was wise, because Allah made him wise.

Allah gave him wisdom and asked him to be thankful to the Almighty, saying: "He that gives thanks to Allah has much to gain, but if anyone denies Allah's favours, then Allah is self-sufficient and glorious..."

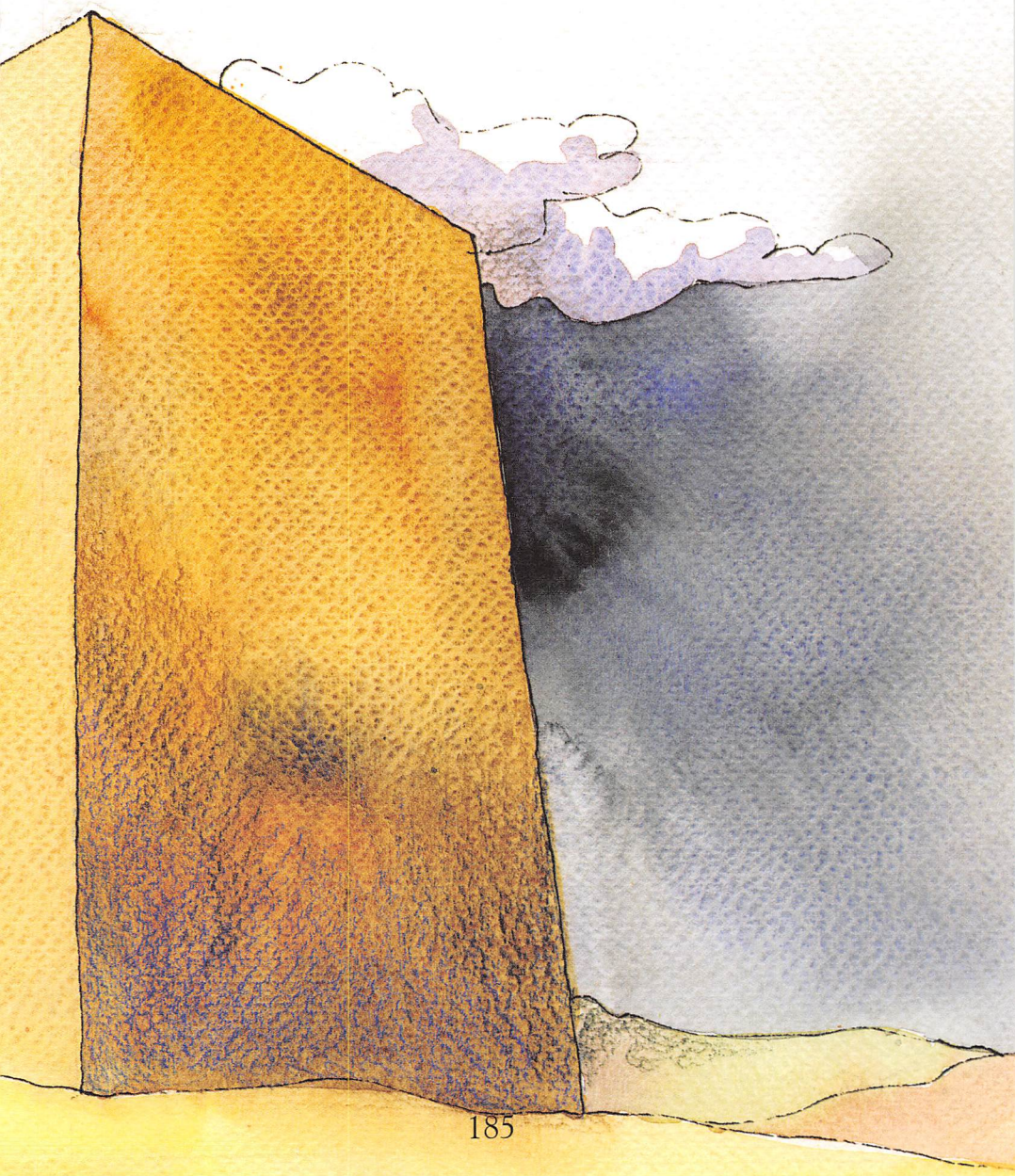


One day Luqman called his son. This is what he said to him: “Don’t bow before anybody but Allah. Don’t serve anybody but Allah. It is a sin to bow to other things. It is a sin to serve anybody but Allah. Allah hates people who sin.”






Luqman told his son:
“Allah sees everything.
He hears everything.
He can see, even if something is hidden.
He can see in the darkness.







He can see, things as small as a grain of mustard seed. He can see mustard seed, even if it is hidden inside a rock.

He can see it, if it is hidden on earth or in heaven. Luqman advised his son: “Don’t forget to pray. Be regular in your prayers.”

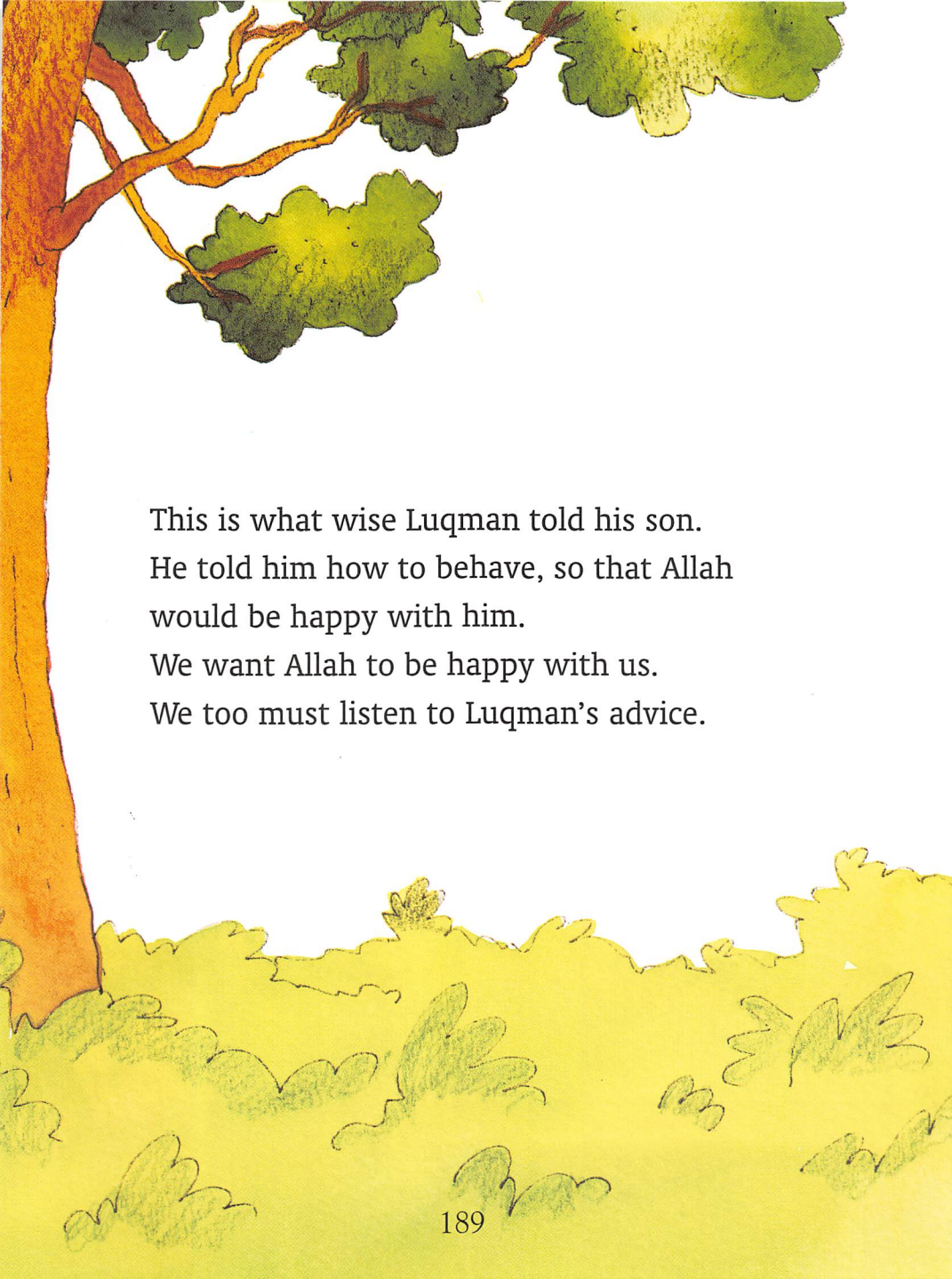
“My son, be truthful and honest. Don’t do things that are wrong.”

“My son, be patient. Be happy with what Allah gives you. It is our duty to accept what Allah gives us.”

“Do not look down on people. Don’t be proud. Don’t boast. Allah does not love proud people and people who boast.”

“Be polite. Don’t speak loudly. Aloud voice is harsh like the braying of a donkey!”



A stylized illustration of a tree with a thick, textured orange-brown trunk on the left. Several branches extend from the trunk, bearing large, rounded green leaves. The ground is covered with a layer of yellow-green grass and several small, dark green bushes. The background is plain white.

This is what wise Luqman told his son.
He told him how to behave, so that Allah
would be happy with him.
We want Allah to be happy with us.
We too must listen to Luqman's advice.

The Sleepers in the Cave

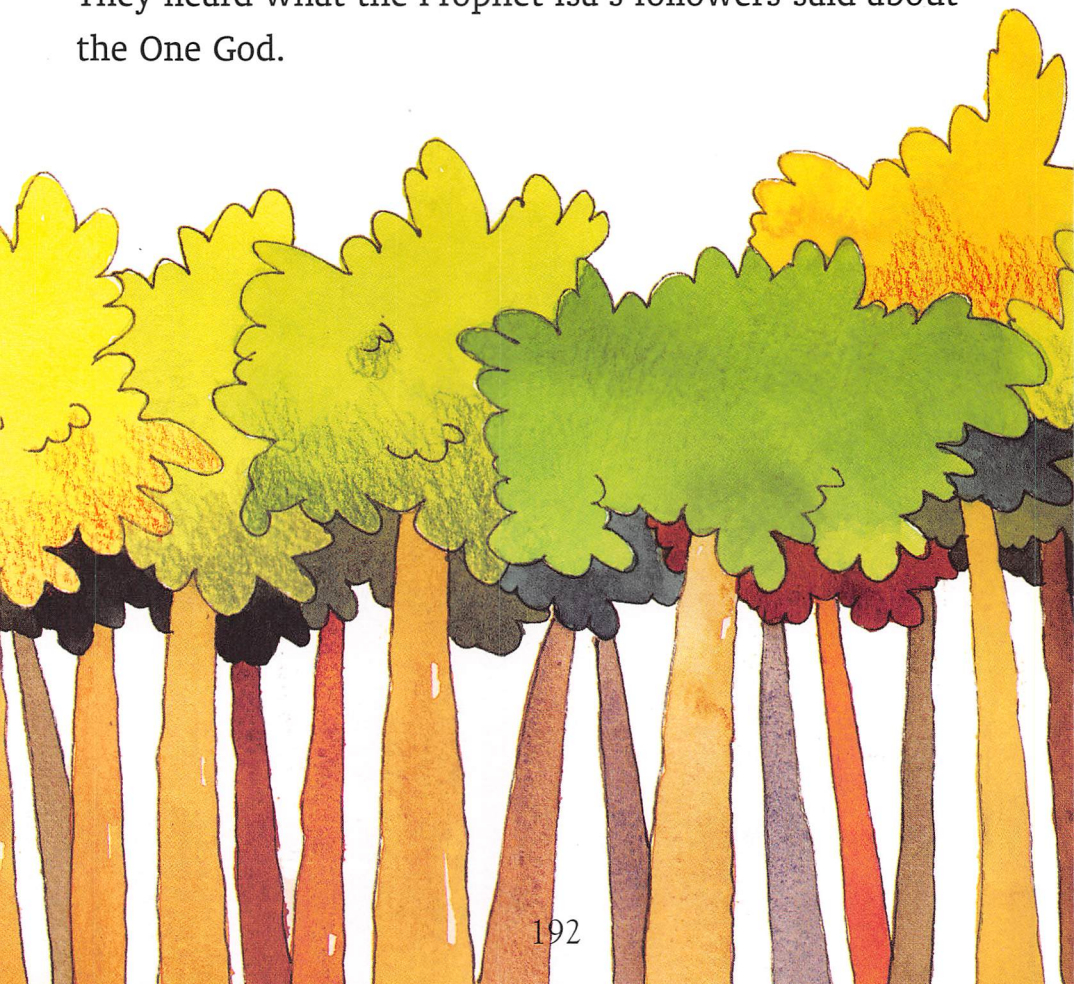
This is a true story. It happened a long, long time ago in the lands of the Roman Empire. The followers of the Prophet Isa (Jesus) ﷺ spread his teachings far and wide. They told people: "There is only One God. Believe in Him."



The king of the Roman Empire was called Decius
(Daqyanus). King Decius did not believe in the One God.



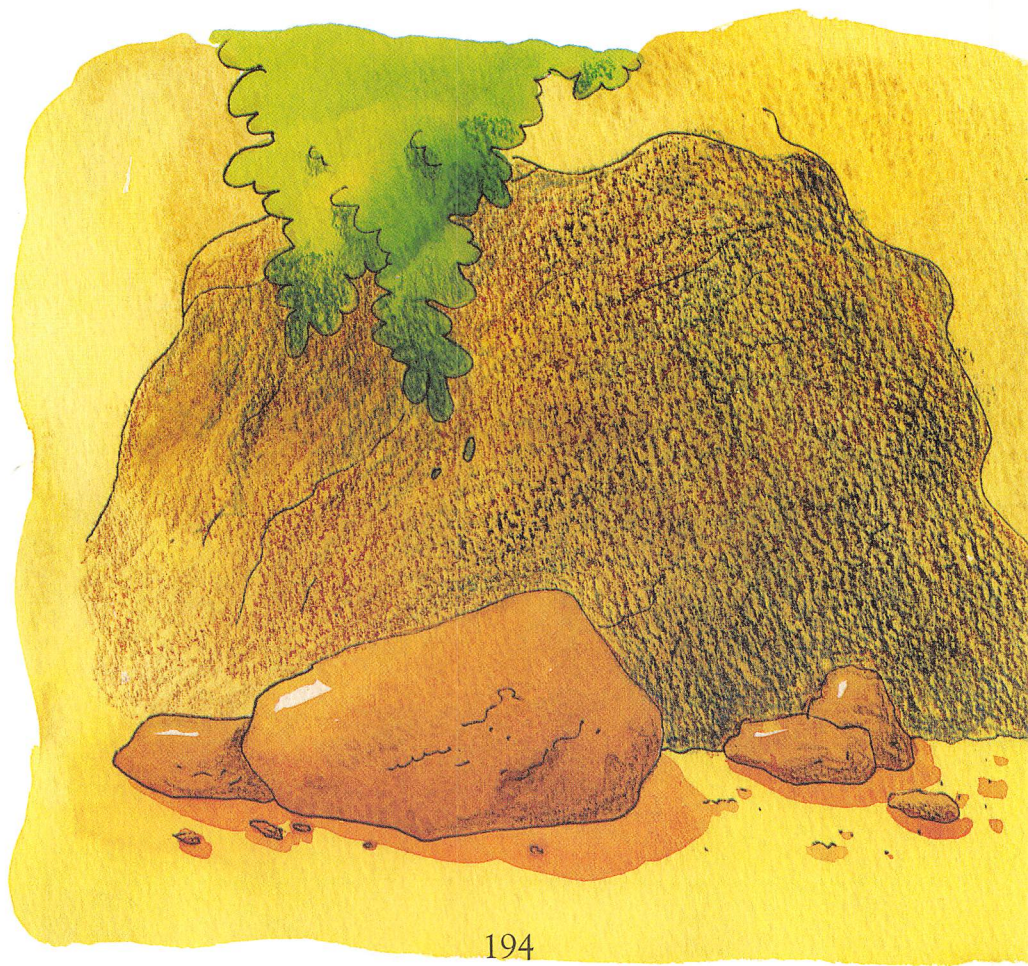
He was against anyone who believed in Him. He tried to put the followers of the Prophet Isa عليه السلام in jail. The beautiful city of Ephesus in Turkey was a part of the Roman Empire. Many people of Ephesus heard of the Prophet Isa عليه السلام. Among them were seven young men of noble families. They heard what the Prophet Isa's followers said about the One God.



Allah guided them and they became true believers.
The king came to know about the seven young men.
He sent his soldiers to capture them. The soldiers looked
for them all over the town. But the young men managed to
slip away. They left the town and ran into a nearby forest.



As they ran for their lives, they prayed to Allah:
“O Lord! Show us Your Mercy and look after us!”
Suddenly they saw a cave in the forest. They went in and
looked around. They cried happily: “This is a perfect hiding
place! Nobody can find us here!”



They were very tired. They lay on the ground in the cave to rest. Soon they fell asleep. Allah kept them asleep for some three hundred years. They did not wake even once.

They did not drink. They did not eat. And they did not make any sound. Only sometimes they turned on their sides. Their dog Qitmir slept too, stretching his legs across the entrance to the cave.

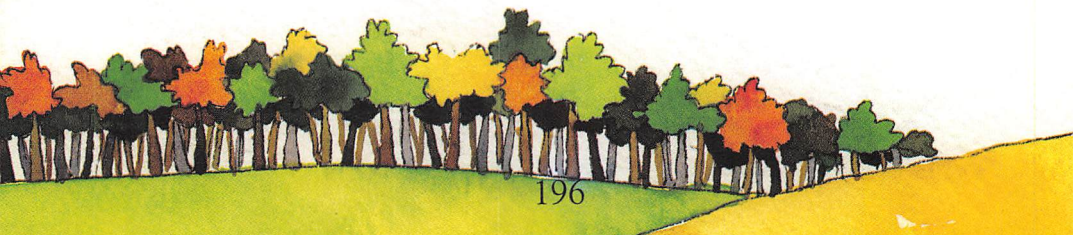
The cave was in a deep forest. Its entrance was always in shade. Most people did not even notice it. And the few, who noticed it, were frightened off by the darkness. The sleeping men were completely safe.



When the right time came, Allah woke up the sleeping men. They got up stiffly and stretched their legs. One of them asked: "How long have we been here?" The other answered: "Must have been here for a day or part of a day."

They felt hungry. One of them found a silver coin in his pocket. He took it out and said: "Let's get some food! One of us can slip into town and buy something in the market."

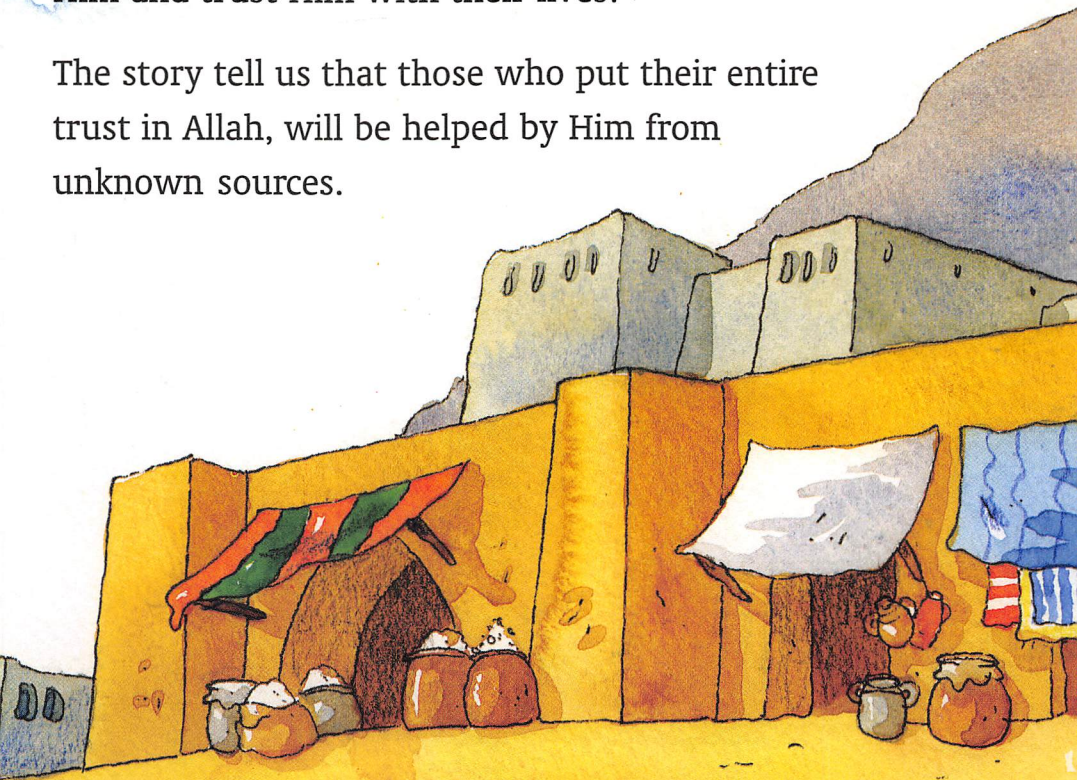
One of the young men walked to the town. He went into a shop. He got some food and paid the shopkeeper with the silver coin. The shopkeeper looked at the coin with surprise. He thought: "This is a very ancient coin. Where did this young man get it? Maybe he has found a hidden treasure?"



And he ran to tell the king. A curious crowd surrounded the young man. People began to ask him all sorts of questions. Soon they found the truth: Seven young men had been asleep in the cave for two hundred years! They slept safely till the true faith spread everywhere! A real miracle!

There is no doubt that Allah protects people who believe in Him and trust Him with their lives!

The story tell us that those who put their entire trust in Allah, will be helped by Him from unknown sources.



An Old Man's Prayer

A long time ago, there lived in Jerusalem a prophet of Allah. His name was the Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام. Allah loved him, for he was pious. Men loved him for he was wise and just. Thus the Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام was loved both by Allah and by men.



Besides, he was the high priest in the shrine of Jerusalem.
He was a very respectable man on every count.

At that time a little girl, Maryam or Mary, was given in service to Allah. She started to live in the shrine in Jerusalem. As the Prophet Zakariyya ﷺ was her uncle, he became her guardian. He often visited Maryam in her little room. He noticed that she always had fresh food and fresh water.

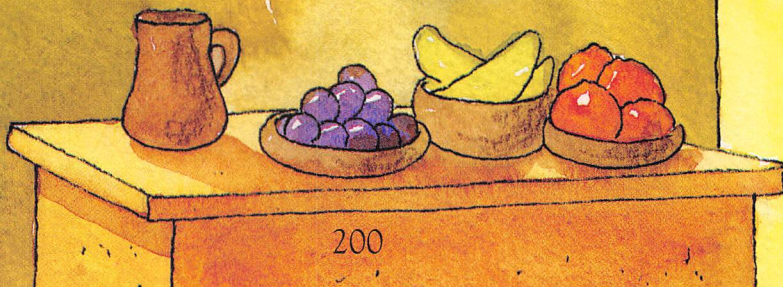
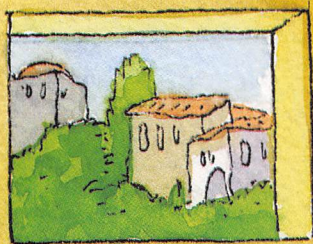


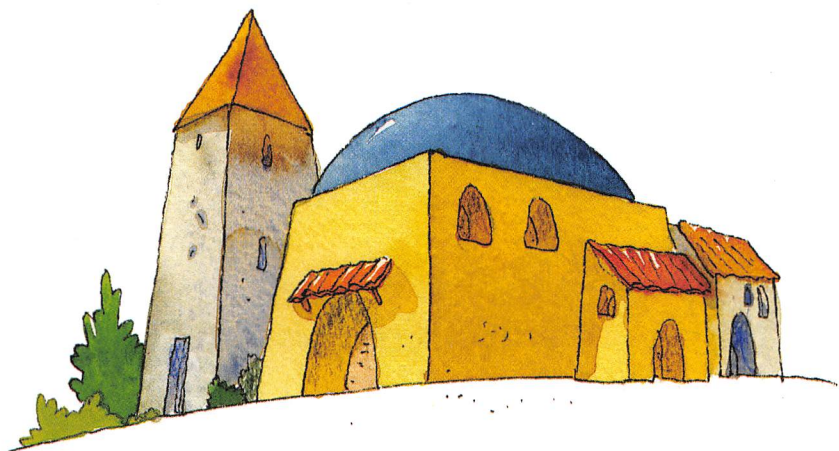
The Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام was surprised and asked:

“Maryam, from where do you get this food?”

“It is from Allah,” she answered, “Allah gives in plenty to anyone He wishes.” Maryam’s simple words went straight to the Prophet Zakariyya’s heart. He may have thought:

“Maryam’s faith in Allah is really great! Allah gives in plenty to whom He wishes! I am an old man, and my wife is old.





And I don't have a son. Let me pray to Allah to give me a son."

The Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام prayed to Allah for a son:
"I am old. My bones are weak and my hair has turned grey.
You have always heard my prayer."

Allah heard his prayer and said: "Zakariyya! We bring you good news of a son, whose name will be Yahya."

The Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام asked Allah: "I am very old.
And my wife is also very old. How can we have a little baby son?" Allah answered: "It is easy for Me. You too were made by Me from nothing."

The Prophet Zakariyya ﷺ still could not believe his luck. He said to Allah: "Give me a sign."

Allah said: "This is the sign I give you: You will be completely well, but for three days I will take away your speech and you will not be able to say a word."

The Prophet Zakariyya ﷺ was very happy. He came out of the shrine. He could not speak but, through signs, he told people to pray to Allah.

When a son was born to old Zakariyya, he was named Yahya. Allah loved Yahya. He gave Yahya wisdom and made him His prophet.

Allah loves the believers.

He loves people who trust Him.

He listens to their prayers.

He helps them in wonderful ways.

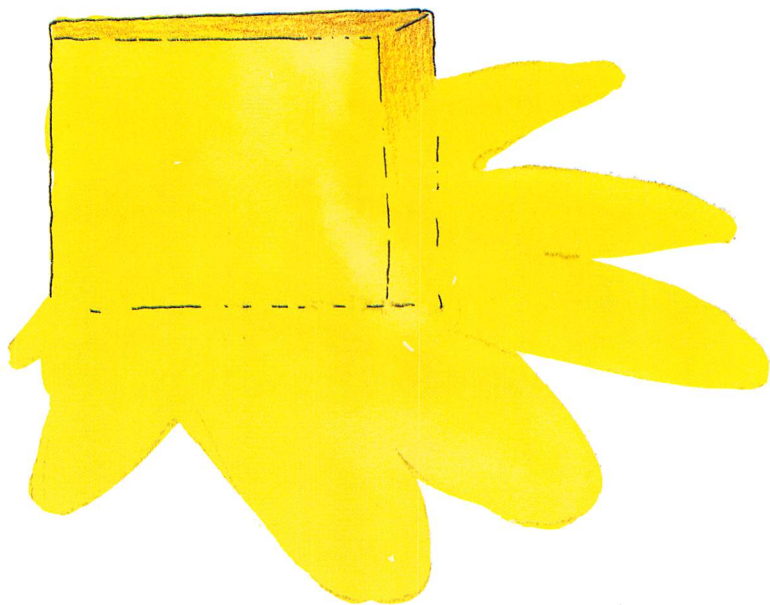
If He wishes, He gives people things,
which might even seem impossible.

The Story of Maryam

Like all the stories told in the Qur'an, this is also a true story. It begins even before Maryam, or Mary, was born.

Long long ago there lived a pious lady in Jerusalem. Her name was Hannah and her husband was Imran. She prayed to Allah for a child and vowed that the child would spend her life serving Allah. Allah heard her prayers, and she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl who was named Maryam (Mary). When she gave birth to Maryam, she felt sad and said: "O my Lord! I have given birth to a female."



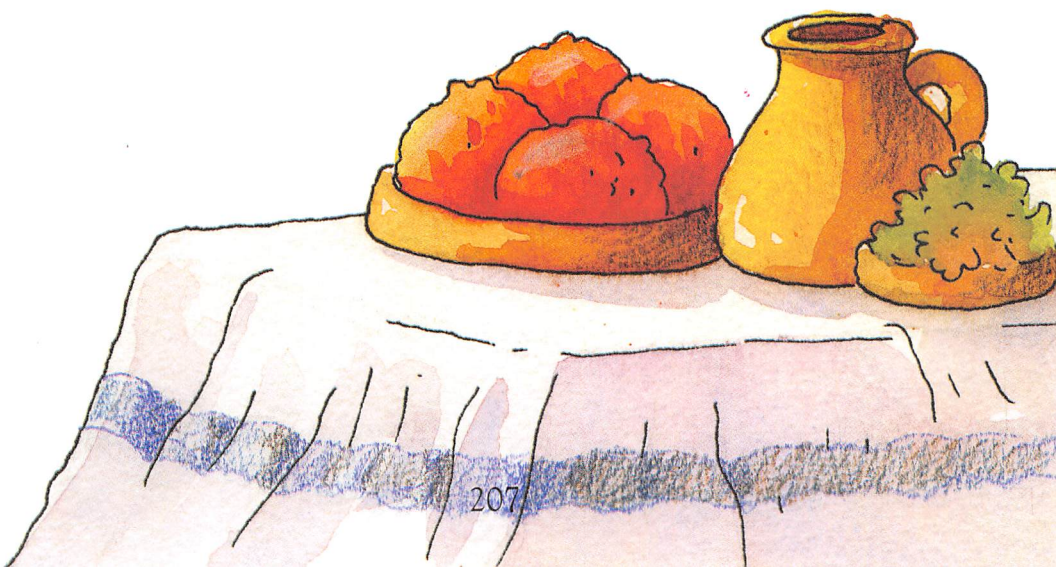


For only a male child could do priestly work. It had always been so. But Allah graciously accepted the girl-child and caused her to grow up in purity. When Maryam began serving Allah, (as promised by her mother) the priests so admired her deep respect for Allah, that every one of them felt it would be an honour to be her guardian.

Sometimes her uncle would go and meet Maryam. Every time he went to her little room, he saw that there was fresh food.

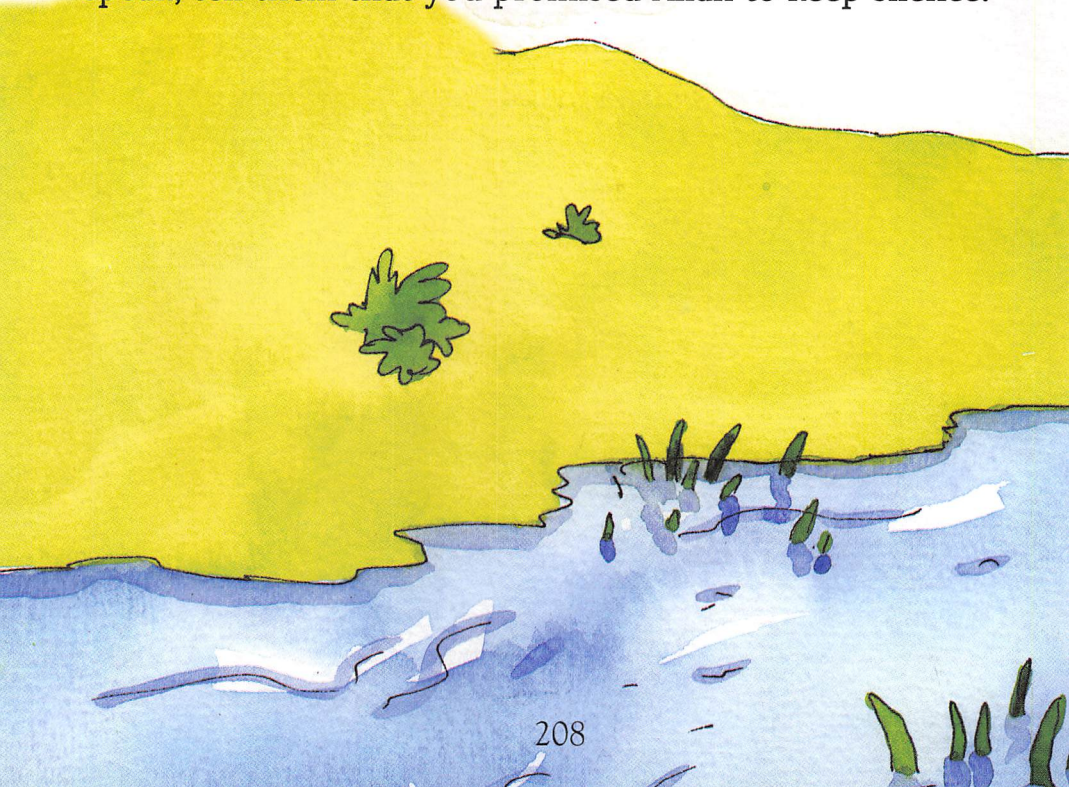
One day he asked: "Maryam, how do you get fresh food and fresh water?" Maryam simply answered: "It is from Allah. He gives in plenty to whom He wishes."

One day she was alone in her room. Suddenly an unknown man who was actually an angel, appeared before her. She became afraid. But the man said: "Do not be afraid. I am Allah's messenger. You will have a holy son." Maryam panicked. She asked the angel: "How can I have a son?" The angel said: "Allah says, 'This is easy for Me. Your son will be a blessing for mankind. And he will be a sign from Allah. His name will be Isa ibn Maryam.'"

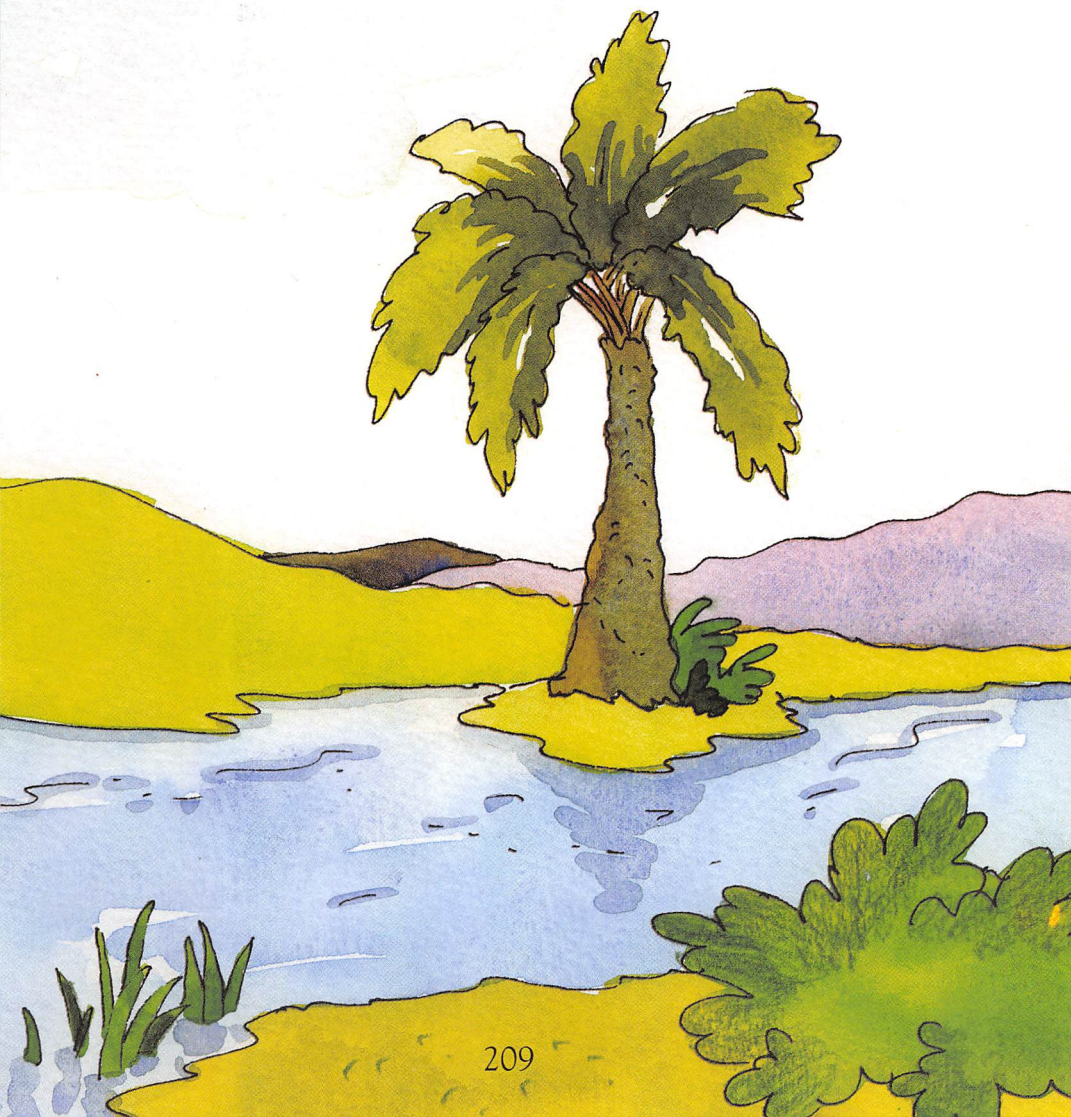


Maryam left Jerusalem. She walked till she reached a faraway place. She was tired and hot. She saw a palm tree. She sat in its shade. A stream was flowing nearby. It was here, in the shade of a date palm and next to a stream, that the Prophet Isa (Jesus) ﷺ was born.

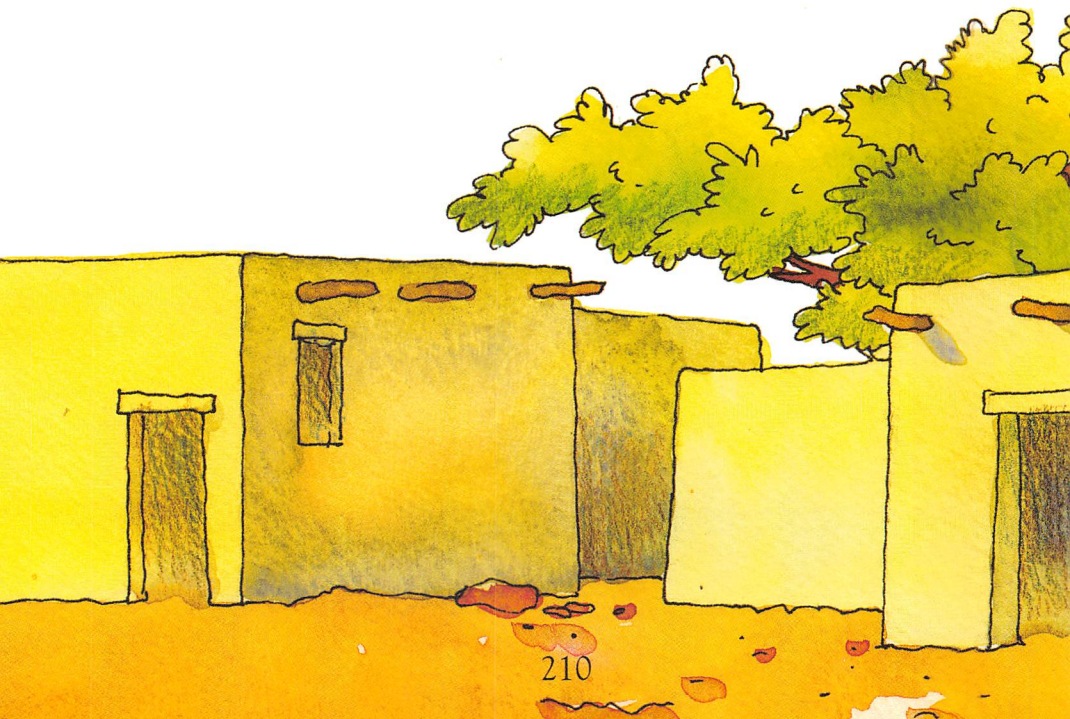
Maryam heard a voice: "Have some dates. Drink water. Then take your baby and go back to your own people. But do not speak. Keep silent. If people ask you why you don't speak, tell them that you promised Allah to keep silence."



Maryam picked up little Isa and went to her own village. People asked her: "Whose baby is this?" But she kept silent as Allah told her to.

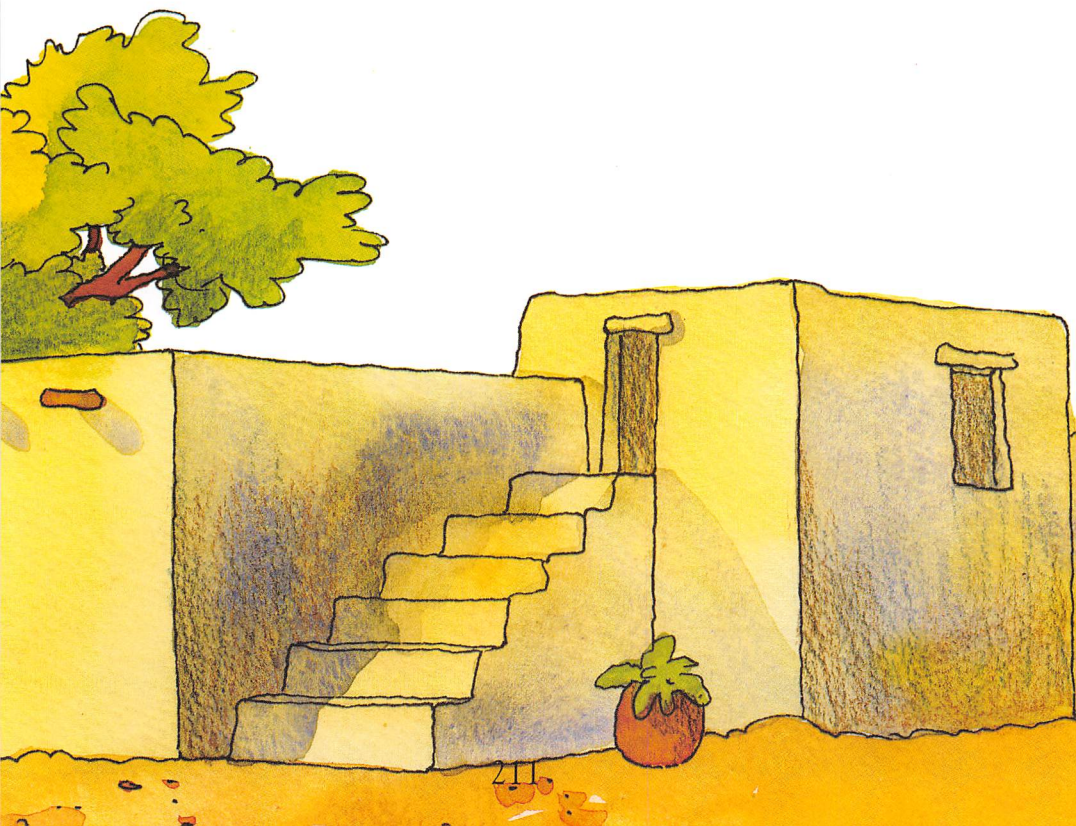


Suddenly little Isa said: "I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet. His blessing is upon me wherever I go, and He has commanded me to be steadfast in prayer and give alms to the poor as long as I shall live. He has made me kind and dutiful towards my mother. He has rid me of arrogance and wickedness. I was blessed on the day I was born, and blessed I shall be on the day of my death; and may peace be upon me on the day when I shall be raised to life."



People were amazed to hear the little baby speak. But why should they be surprised? The Prophet Isa's birth was a miracle. And Allah gave the Prophet Isa ^{عليه السلام} power to perform many miracles during his life.

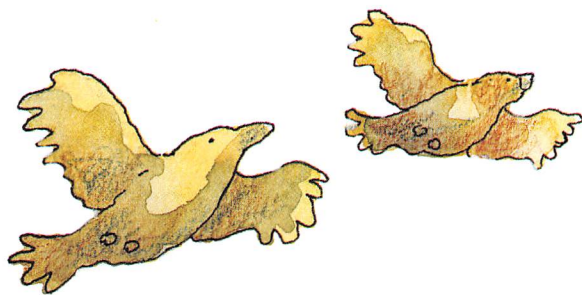
The Qur'an says: "Such was Isa, son of Maryam."
He was a great prophet and he taught people how to love Allah.



The Prophet Isa عليه السلام and the Miracle of the Feast

The story of the Prophet Isa عليه السلام is full of miracles. It also begins with a miracle. Isa's mother, Maryam, was staying in Jerusalem, in the shrine of Allah. One day an angel appeared before her. He said: "You will have a holy son." And everything happened as the angel said it would.

Isa was just a tiny baby when he began to talk like the grown-ups. He said to the people of the village:
"I am a servant of Allah. I am His Prophet."



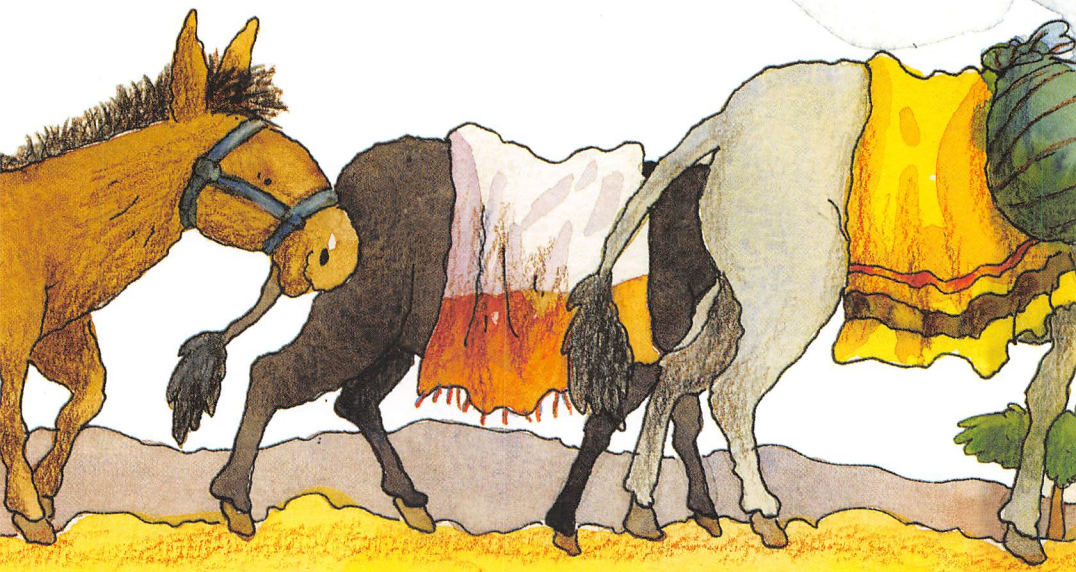
When the Prophet Isa عليه السلام grew up, he performed many more miracles with the leave of Allah.

He made little birds of clay and made them fly like real birds. He made a blind man see again. He restored dead men to life. It was Allah who helped Isa عليه السلام to perform all these miracles. Allah loved him and looked after him.

The Prophet Isa عليه السلام had many disciples. They went everywhere with the Prophet Isa عليه السلام. They travelled from village to village and from town to town.

In every village or town the Prophet Isa عليه السلام stopped for a while to teach people about Allah. He told people how to love Allah and pray to Him.

One day the Prophet Isa عليه السلام was travelling with his disciples as usual. It was already evening. They were tired and sat in the field. They were also hungry. But they had no food with them.



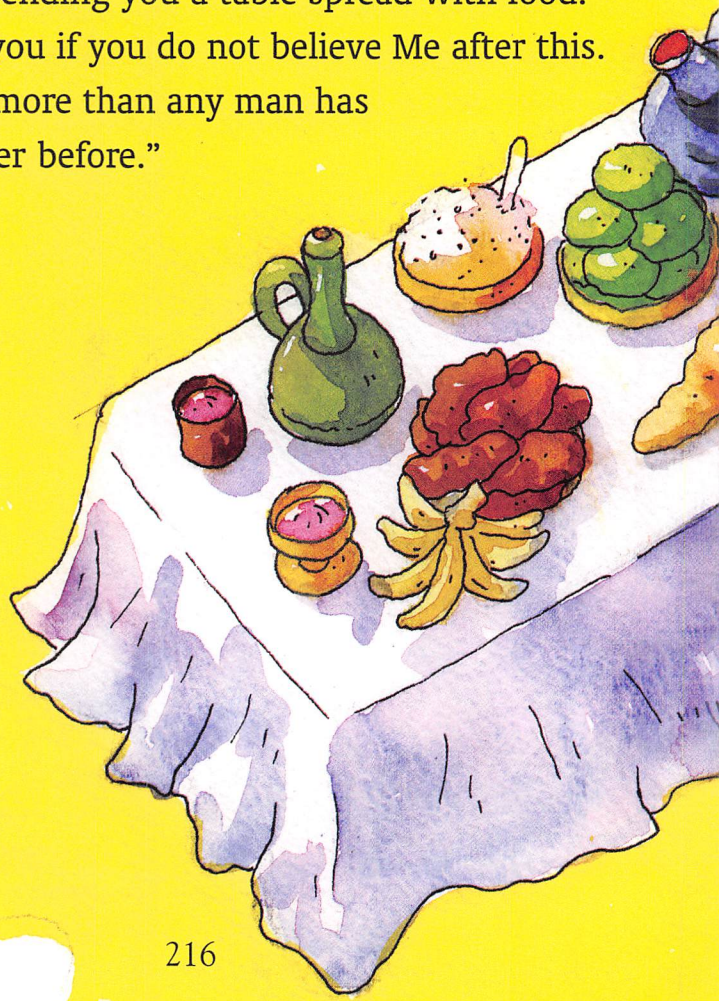
One of the disciples said to the Prophet Isa عليه السلام: “Isa, son of Maryam. Can your Lord send down to us from heaven a table spread with food?” The Prophet Isa عليه السلام did not like his words. He said to him: “Fear Allah, if you are a true believer.”

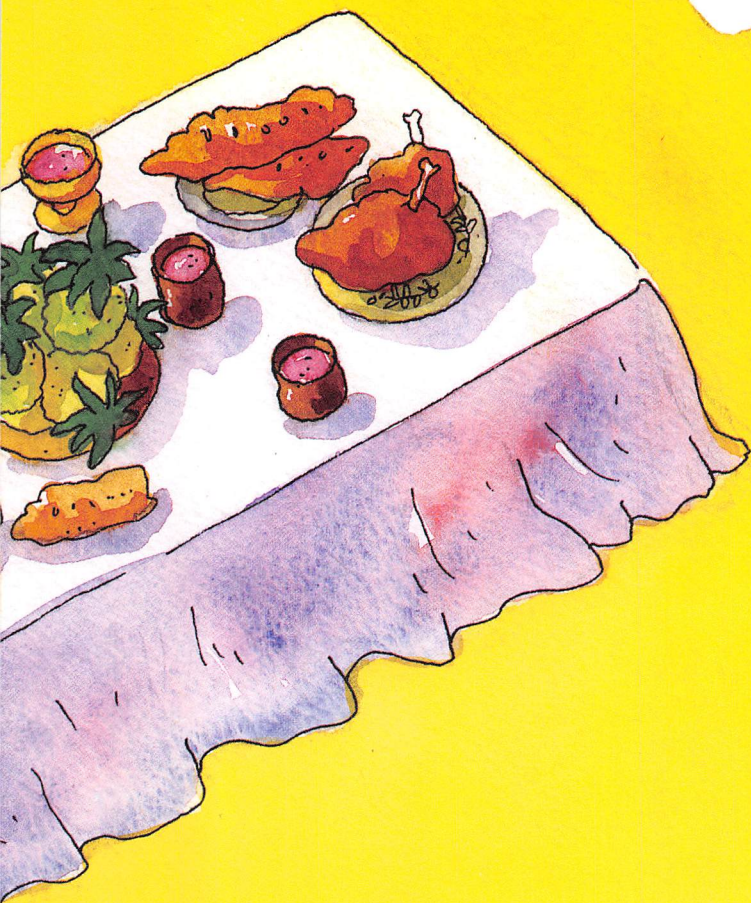
But the disciples ignored his words. They insisted: “We want to eat some food sent from heaven by Allah.”

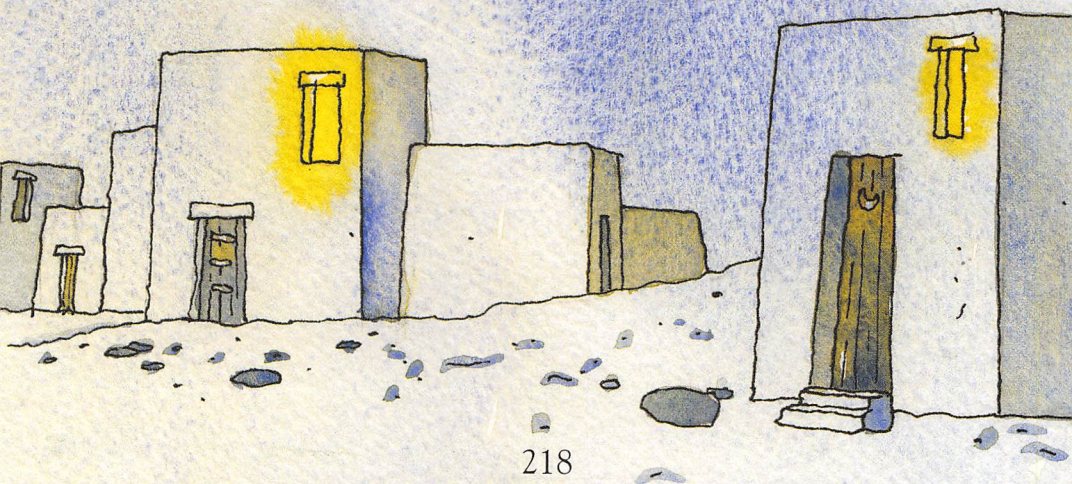


The Prophet Isa said to Allah: "Send down to us from heaven a table spread with food, that shall be for us a festival, the first and last of us, and a sign from You. And provide for us. You are the Best Provider."

Allah said: "I am sending you a table spread with food. But I will punish you if you do not believe Me after this. I will punish you more than any man has been punished ever before."





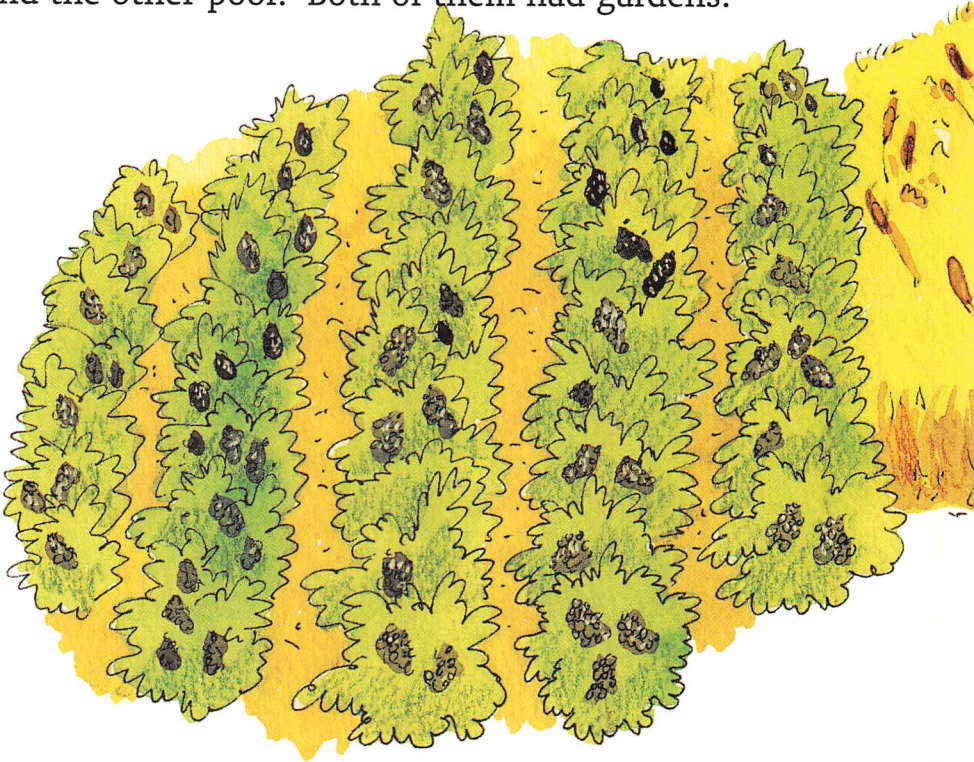


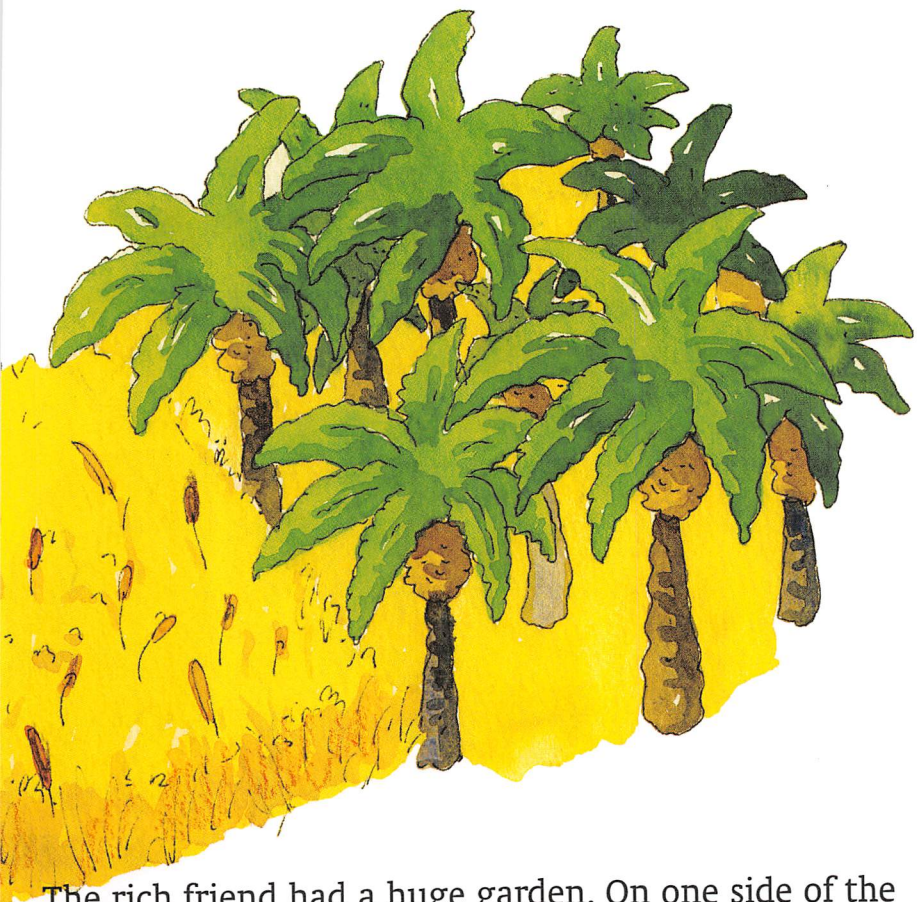
Isa عليه السلام was a prophet of Allah. He taught people how to love Allah. But in the end, only a few people followed the Prophet Isa عليه السلام. Only some people saw the signs of Allah. There were some wicked people who disliked the Prophet Isa عليه السلام so much that they wanted to kill him. But Allah saved him and took him up to heaven. The wicked people thought they had killed the Prophet Isa عليه السلام but they had killed another man by mistake.

Allah looks after His messengers. He looked after the Prophet Isa عليه السلام and saved him from his enemies. The Prophet Isa عليه السلام continued his mission for several years, but only a few answered his call. The Children of Israel wanted to crucify him. But Allah saved him and they crucified another man, who was made to appear like him.

The Story of Two Gardens

This is a story, which Allah tells us in the Qur'an. Once upon a time there were two friends. One of them was rich and the other poor. Both of them had gardens.





The rich friend had a huge garden. On one side of the garden there was a vineyard. Its grapes were bigger and sweeter than any other grapes. On the other side of the garden there was an orchard. It was full of date palms. There were so many palms that it was impossible even to count them without making a mistake. Between the two gardens there was a field of corn.



Every time the two friends met, the rich friend used to say: "I am richer than you. And my family is better than yours." The rich man loved his garden a lot. He looked at his garden with lots of pride. He thought: "It is a beautiful garden. It will be always full of fruit. It will never be destroyed. Not even on the Last Day.

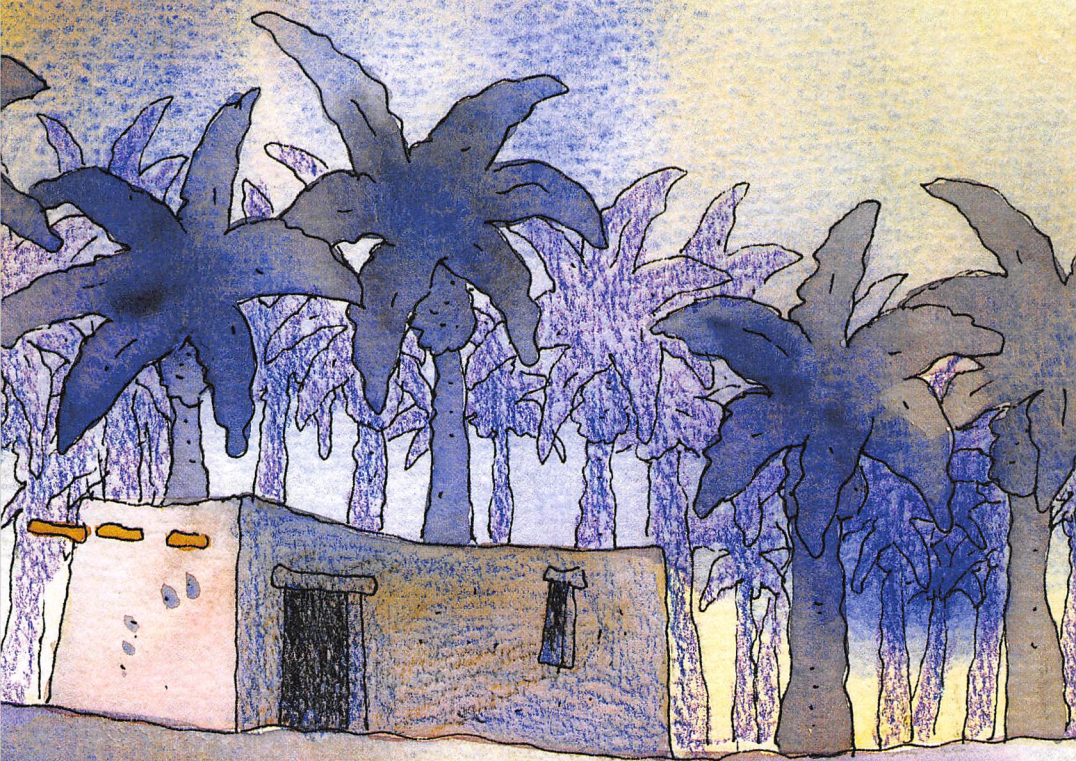
And when I die, I am sure I will have an even better garden than this." The poor friend heard what his rich friend said. He was surprised by his pride. Once he asked him: "Don't you believe in Allah? Allah has made you.



He gave you all you have. Why don't you praise Allah? Why don't you praise Him when you enter your garden? Why don't you say: 'Everything happens as Allah wills.'" Then the poor friend said: "I am poorer than you. My family is also not as great as yours.



But if Allah so wills, He will give me a garden even better than yours. If Allah so wills, a storm might ruin your garden. Or the streams might run dry. And there might be no water for your garden.”

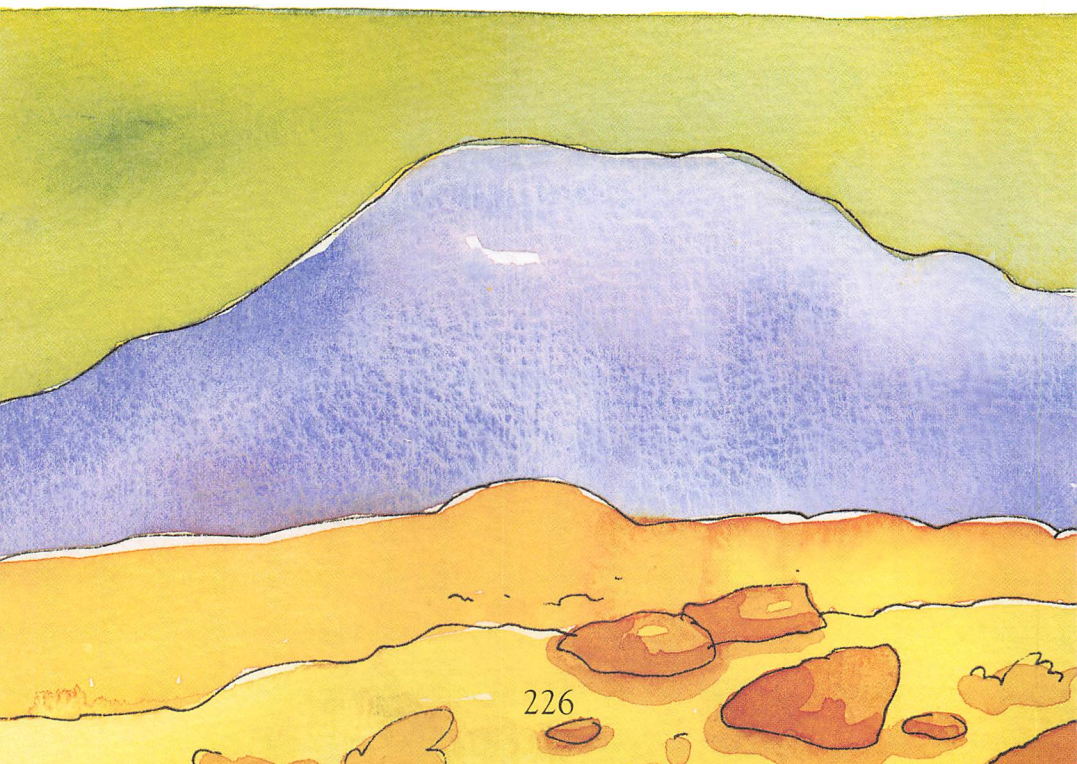


The very next day a terrible thing happened. The rich man's garden was destroyed. Bunches of ripe grapes were ripped from the branches and fell to the ground.

The rich man looked at his ruined garden and cried:

"I shouldn't have been proud! Why didn't I thank Allah?

Why wasn't I grateful?"

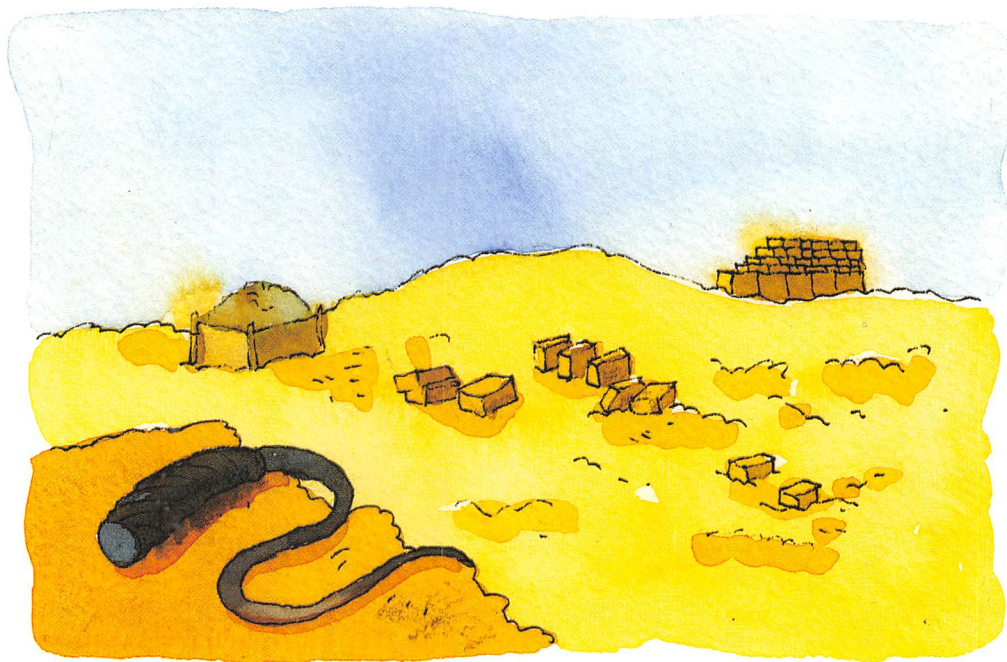


He turned to Allah for help. It was too late to save his garden, but not too late to save his soul. This story is meant to teach believers never to speak proudly, but to say in all humility: "Whatever Allah has ordained must surely come to pass: there is no power save with Allah."

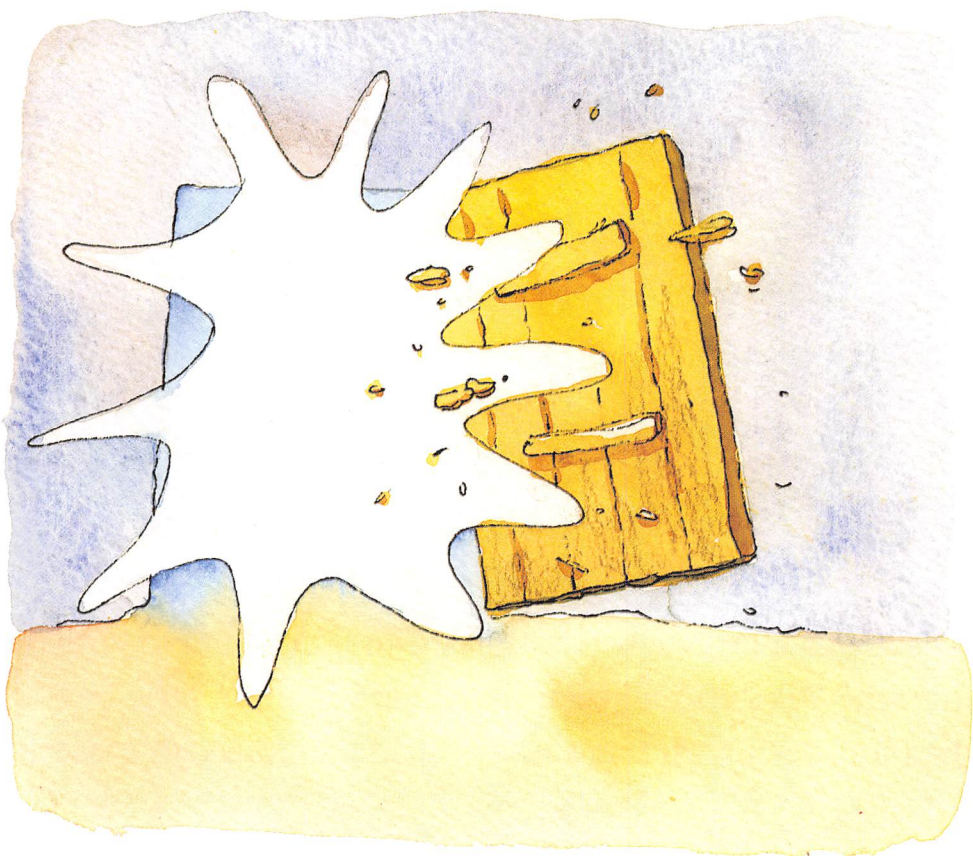


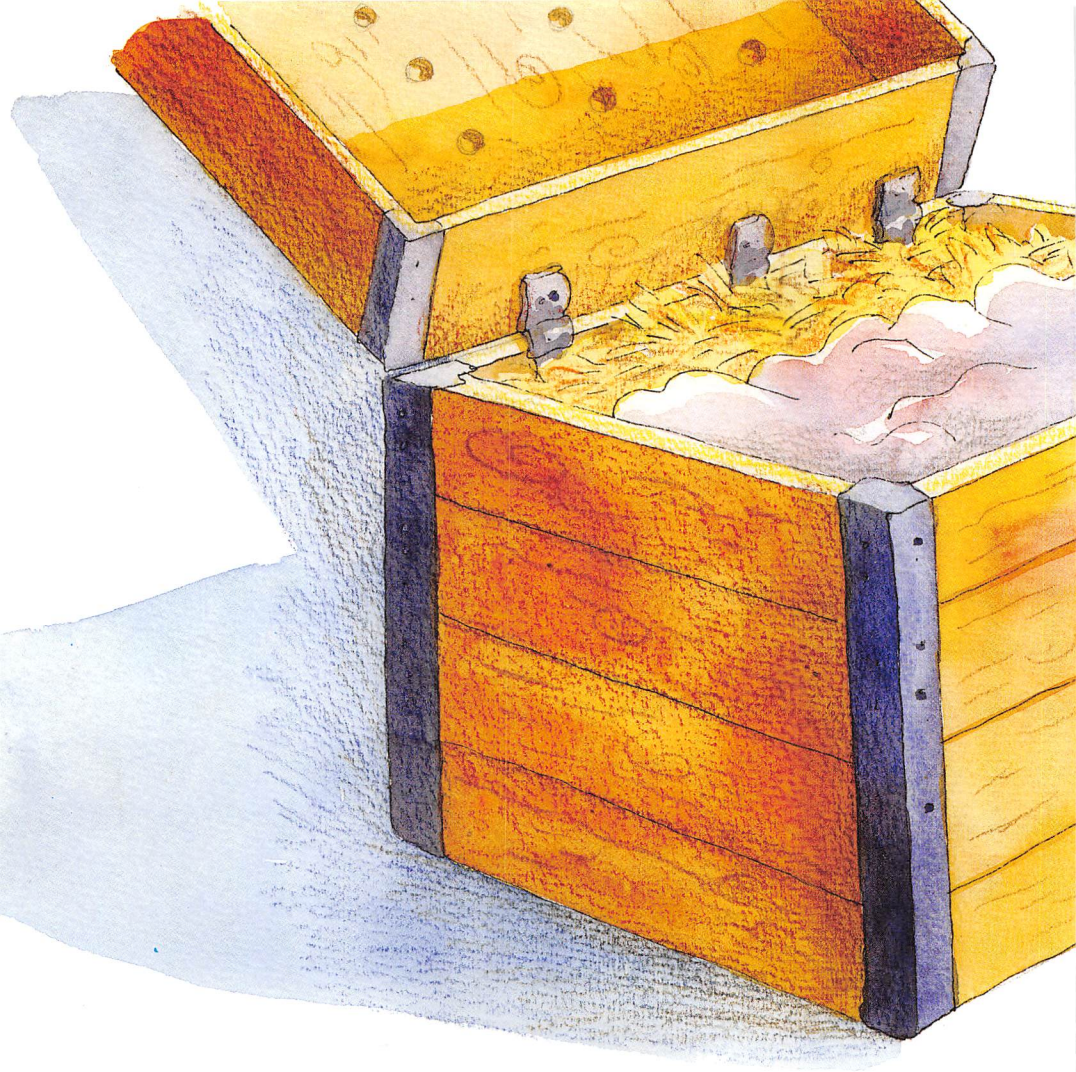
The Kind Queen

Once upon a time there lived in Egypt a tribe called the Children of Israel. The king of Egypt, the cruel Firawn, hated the Children of Israel. He treated them like slaves. One day he told his ministers: "Kill all the newly born boys of the Children of Israel."



The soldiers of Firawn barged into the houses of the Children of Israel. They searched the rooms. They killed all the little boys they found. Mothers and fathers and sisters cried, but the soldiers had no mercy.





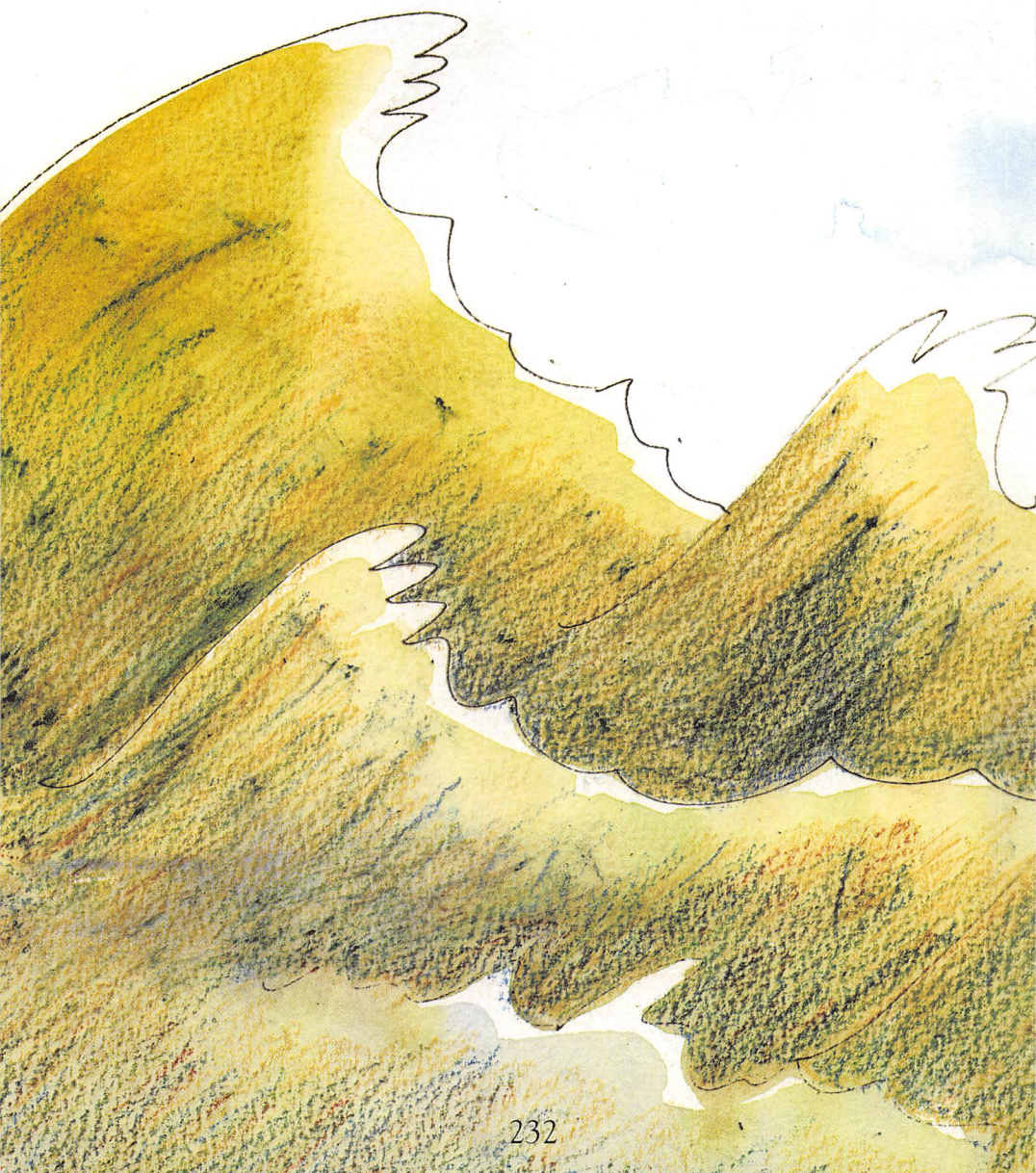
There was a little house in the city. In it lived Imran with his wife Yukabid, and their daughter Miriam. A little boy had just been born there. They called him Musa, or Moses.



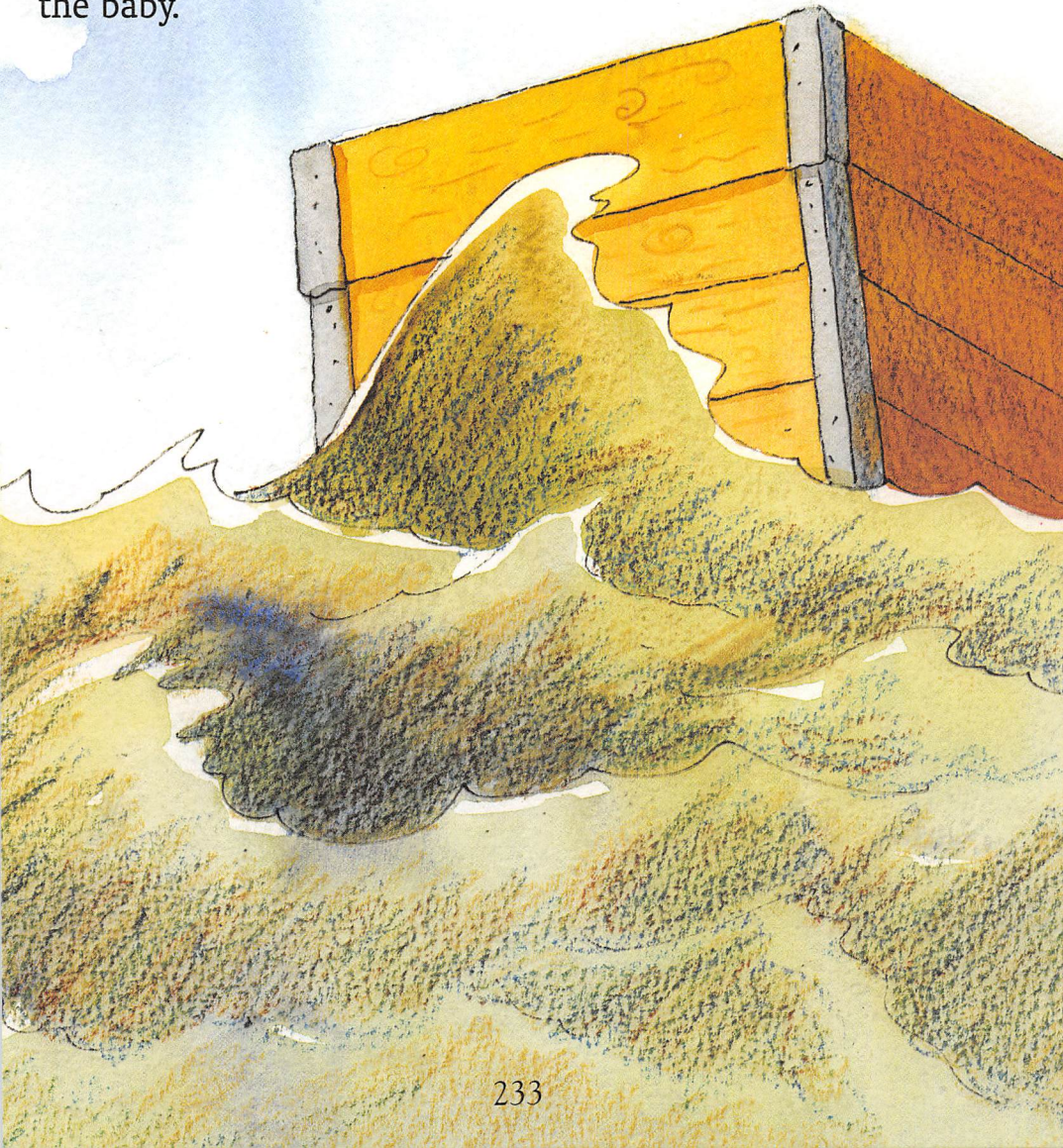
They were very afraid that the soldiers might come and find him. Yukabid could not sleep at night. She was scared that Musa might cry and the soldiers might hear him cry.

She did not know what to do. She prayed to Allah for help. Allah advised her: "Take a chest. Put your baby in the chest. Take the chest to the bank of the river. Let the waves carry it to safety."

Musa's mother put the little Musa in a chest. Then together with Miriam she took the chest to the river. There they put the chest in the water. The waves immediately carried it away.



Musa's mother was very worried. So she told Miriam to walk along the river and see what happened to the baby.



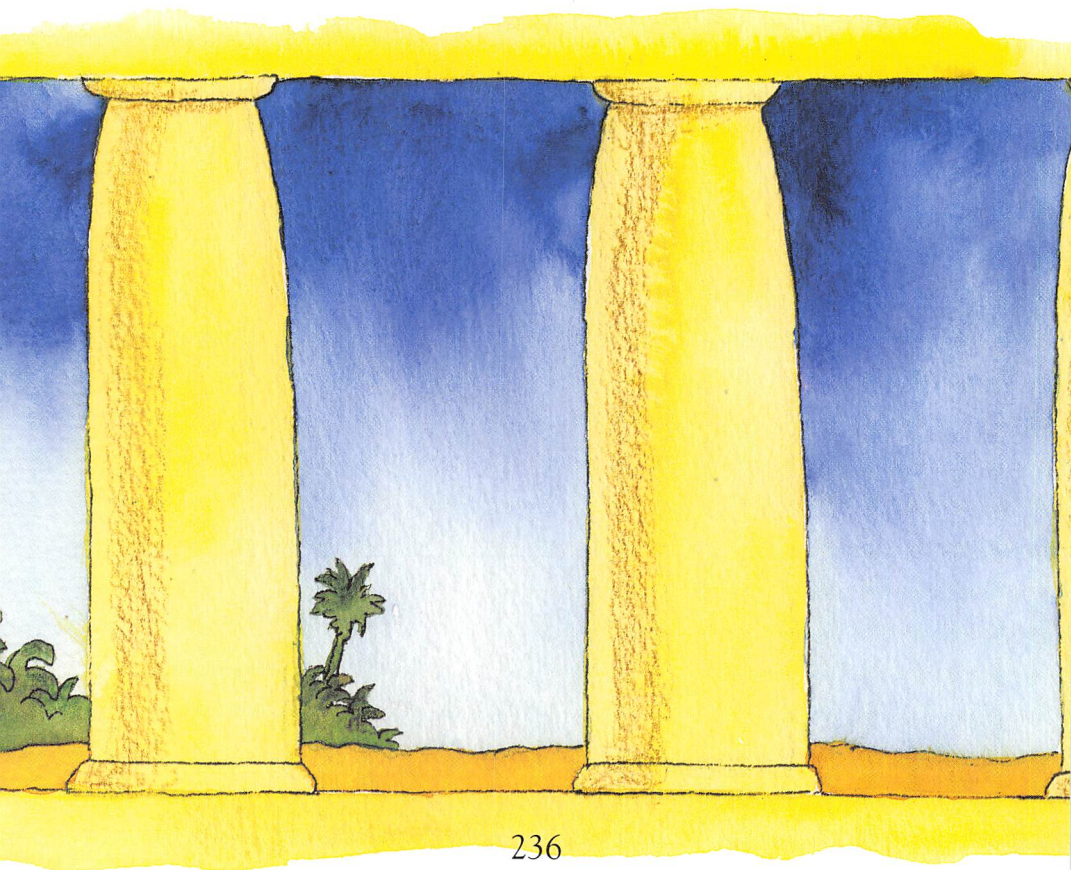
Soon the waves brought the chest with the baby next to a beautiful garden. It was the garden of the Queen. The Queen was the wife of the cruel Firawn, but she was not at all like her husband. She was good and kind-hearted.



The Queen was walking in the garden.
Suddenly, she saw a chest floating in the river.
She told her maids: "Go and fetch the chest."
The maids ran into the water and brought the
chest. They put it in front of the Queen.
The Queen looked into the chest. And what
did she see?



There was a beautiful baby sleeping in the chest!
She said: "It is a beautiful boy. I will take him to the palace
and look after him." And she said to her maids: "Find a
nurse for the baby."



Miriam saw everything. She ran to the Queen and said: "I know a good woman. She stays nearby. She will be a good nurse for the baby."

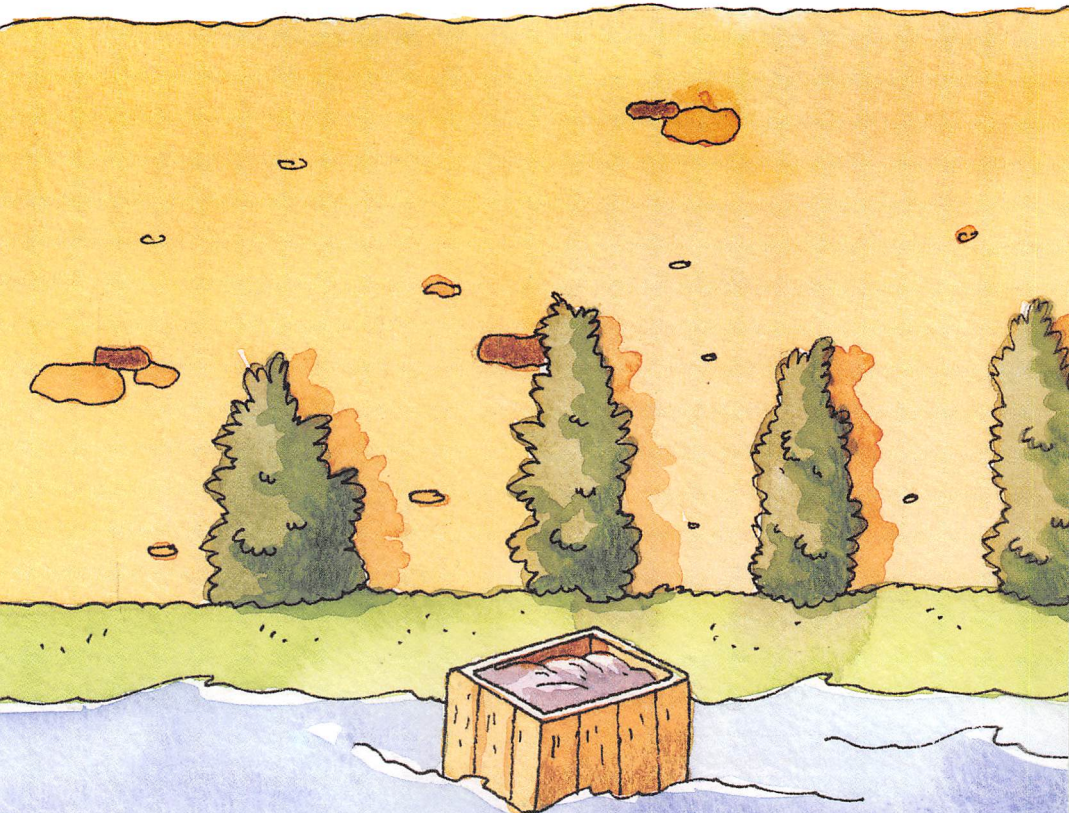
And she brought her mother to be Musa's nurse in the palace.

Allah restored Musa to his mother. He looked after him and made him a prophet. Allah is the Best Guide and Protector.

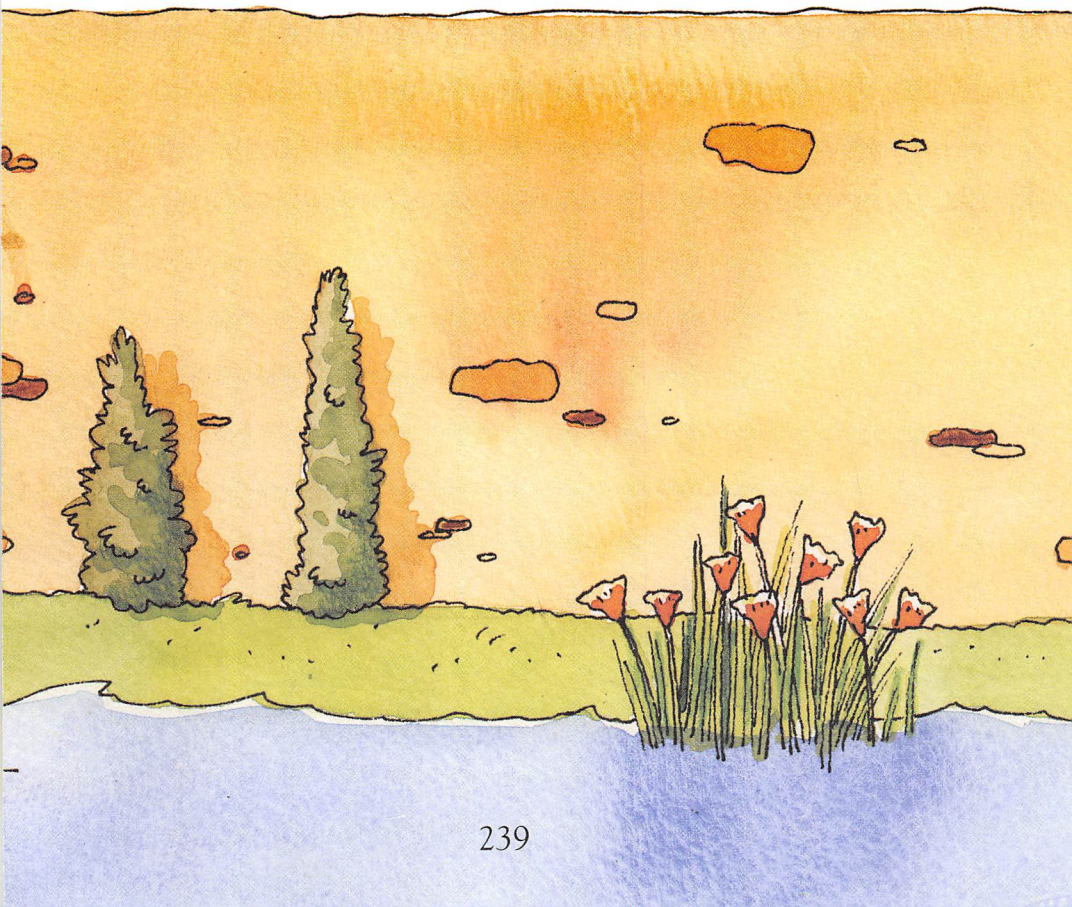
The story teaches us that we should be kind and gentle towards others.

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام Runs Away

Musa عليه السلام was a great prophet of Allah. He was born in the land of Egypt. Allah looked after him from the day he was born. At that time a king called Firawn ruled Egypt.



Firawn was a very cruel king. But his wife, the Queen was very kind. She found Musa ^{عليه السلام} when he was a little baby. She was walking in the garden by the river. She saw a chest in the water. In the chest there was a little boy. This little boy was Musa ^{عليه السلام}.



The Queen took him to the palace. She looked after Musa عليه السلام and loved him very much.

Musa عليه السلام grew up in the house of the Firawn. But he loved Allah and prayed to Him. He also knew that his real family belonged to the tribe of the Children of Israel.

One day Musa عليه السلام was walking in the market. He saw two men fighting. One of them was an Egyptian. The other was one of the Children of Israel. Suddenly, the man who belonged to his own tribe called out: "Help me!" Musa عليه السلام ran to help him. He hit the Egyptian and killed him.

Musa عليه السلام was very upset. He was sorry that he had killed a man.

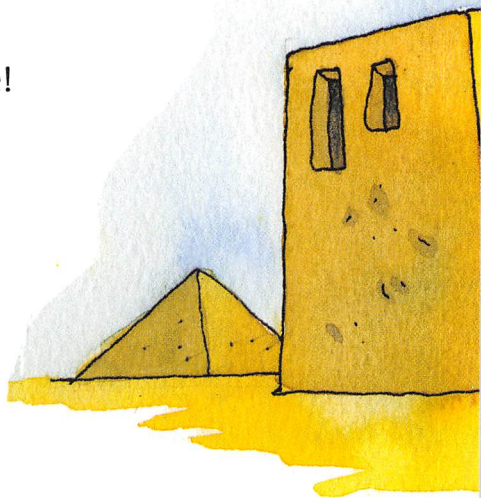
He prayed to Allah: "Forgive me!

I have killed a man.

This is a terrible thing."

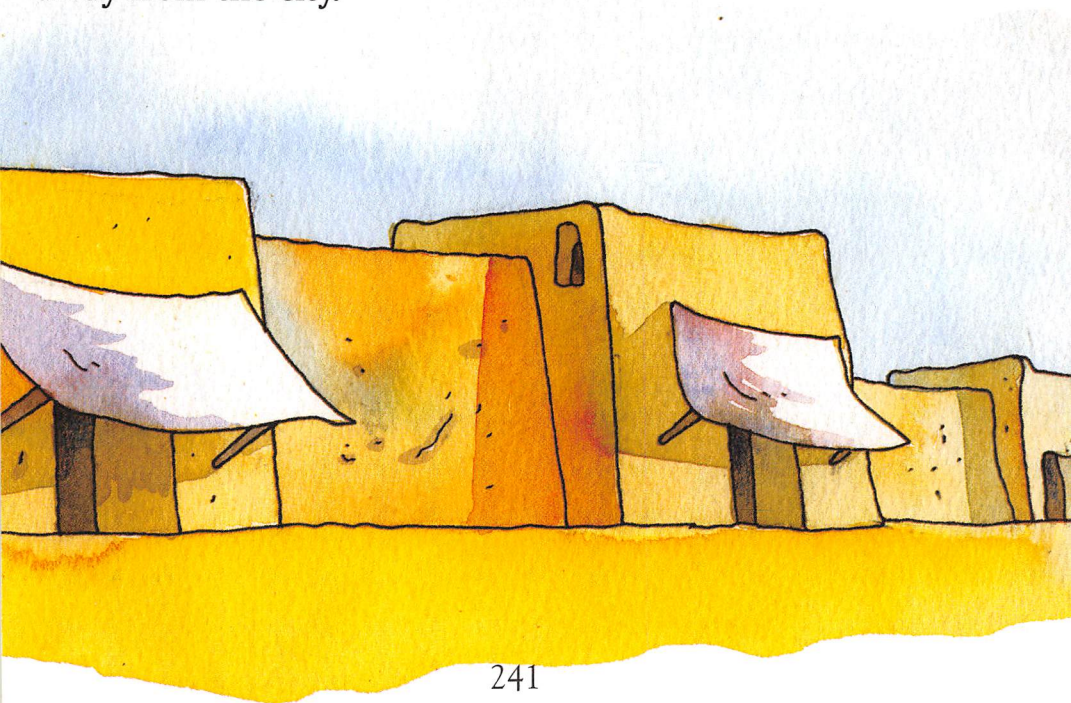
And Allah forgave him.

He is Forgiving and Merciful.



The next day, Musa عليه السلام was again walking in the market. He again saw two men fighting. One of them was the same man whom he had defended the other day. The man again called on to Musa عليه السلام: "Help me!" Musa عليه السلام was about to run and help him. Then the other man mocked him: "You killed a man yesterday. Are you going to kill me too?"

At this moment a friend ran to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام. He said: "Firawn's soldiers are looking for you. You killed an Egyptian yesterday. Now they are going to arrest you. Run away from the city."

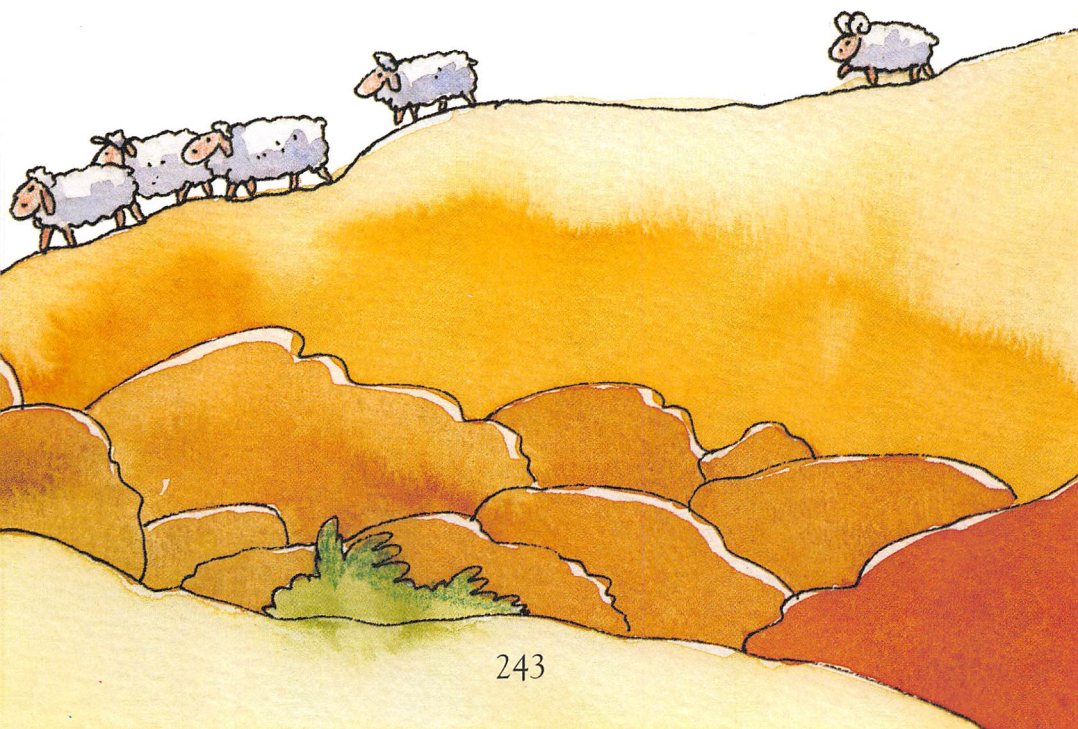


The Prophet Musa عليه السلام ran away. He left the city. Allah looked after him. And guided him to the land of Madyan. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام left Egypt. He travelled for a long time. After many days, he reached the land of Madyan. He was tired and thirsty. So he looked for a well.



Soon he found a well. There were many men around the well. These were shepherds with their sheep and cattle. They were watering their animals before returning home.

A little distance from the well two girls were sitting. They also had sheep with them. But they did not go near the well. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام asked the girls: “Why are you sitting far away from the well? Why are you not taking your sheep to drink water from the well?”



The girls said: "Our father is very old. He cannot come with us. There are no young men in our house to help us with our sheep. That is why we have to take the sheep to the well ourselves. But we have to wait our turn. We have to wait till the other shepherds go away."

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام took pity on the two sisters. He led their sheep to the well and made them drink water. The girls were very happy. They took their sheep and went home.

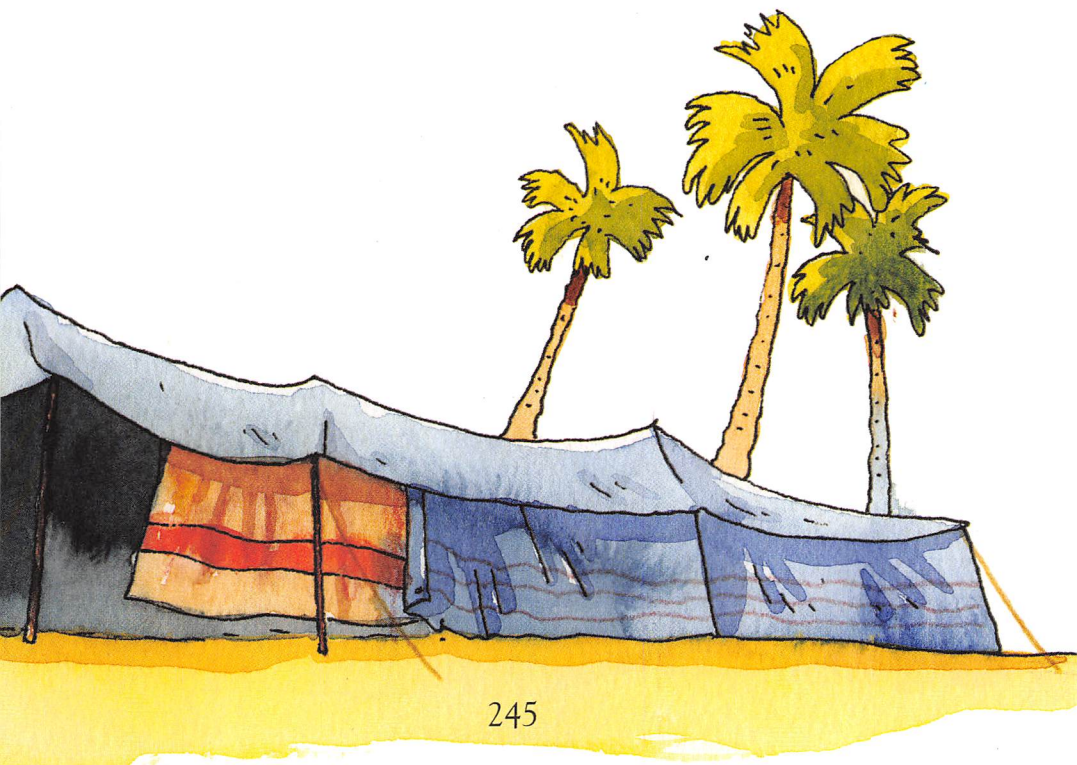
When the sisters came home early, their father asked: "What happened? You came home very early!"

The sisters said: "A young man helped us to water our sheep."



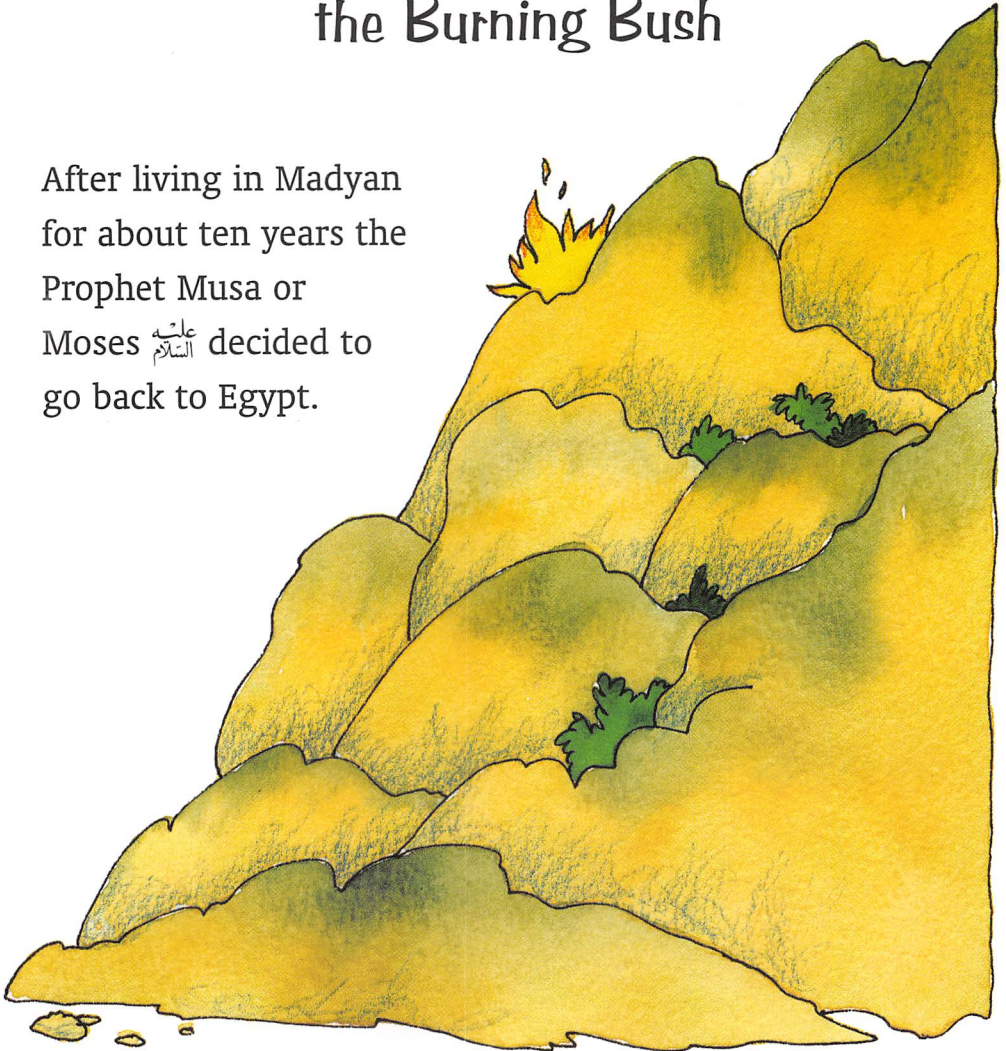
We did not have to wait till the other shepherds went away.” The father said: “Go and call the young man, I would like to pay for the work he has done.”

Musa ^{عليه السلام} came to the house. He had food with the girls’ father. And he began to stay with the family. He helped them in their work. Later on he married one of the sisters. But that is another story.



The Prophet Musa عليه السلام and the Burning Bush

After living in Madyan for about ten years the Prophet Musa or Moses عليه السلام decided to go back to Egypt.



So he took his family and started to travel towards Egypt. They travelled the whole day. They did not meet anybody on the way. It was already getting dark. They were crossing a valley in the mountains.

Suddenly, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام saw a fire high on the mountainside. He said: "Wait here. Let me go and get some burning brand from the fire."

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام climbed the mountain. It was already dark. There was total silence. In the silence he heard a voice: "Musa, I am your Lord. I have chosen you. Listen to what I reveal to you. I am Allah. There is no god but Me. Serve Me. Remember Me and pray to Me."

Then Allah ordered Musa عليه السلام: "Throw down your staff!" Musa عليه السلام threw down his staff on the ground. It turned into a big snake!

Again Allah spoke to Musa عليه السلام: "Put your hand in your pocket. Now take it out. See, your hand is now shining like silver. But it is not harmed."

Allah explained: "These are signs from Me. Show these signs to Firawn. And tell them of the power of Allah." Allah commanded Musa عليه السلام to go to Egypt and show him the signs and warn him, so that he might get guidance.



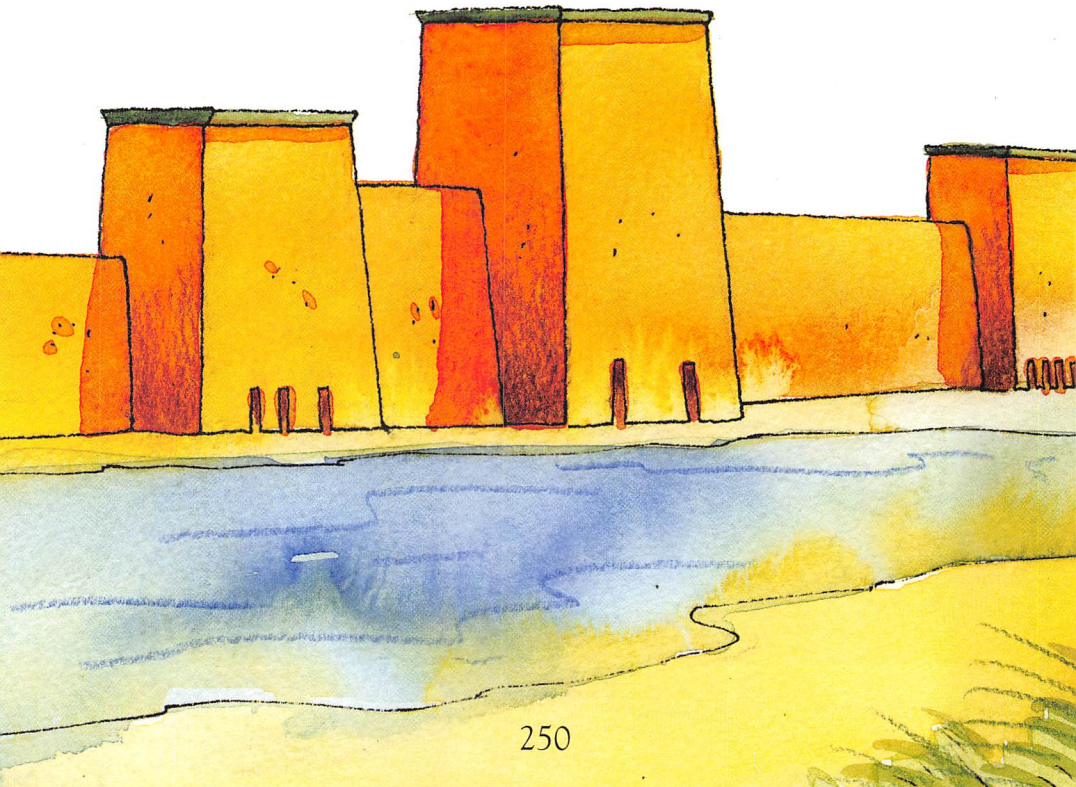
The Prophet Musa عليه السلام always obeyed Allah. He went to Egypt. He met Firawn and his ministers. But Firawn refused to believe in Allah! He refused to bow down to Him! And Allah punished him! Both the cruel Firawn and his soldiers were drowned in the sea. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام and his people were saved!

Allah guides people who believe in Him.
He protects them.
He saves them from any danger.



The King's Magicians

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام was a great prophet of Allah. He lived in Egypt more than 4000 years ago. Allah looked after him from the day he was born. And He chose Musa عليه السلام to be His prophet.

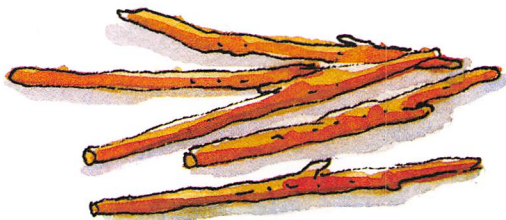


At the same time there lived in Egypt a very cruel king. He was called Firawn (or Pharaoh). He did not believe in Allah.

Allah gave Musa عليه السلام two signs, and commanded him to go to Firawn with these signs and give him His message.

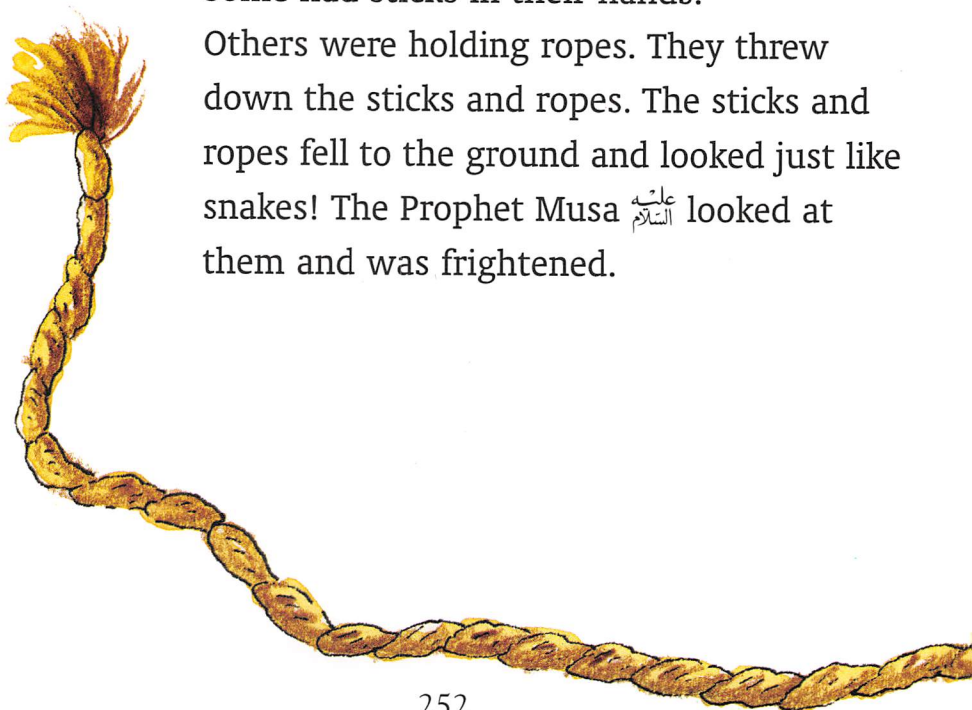
Musa عليه السلام took his brother Harun with him and went to the palace. Firawn was sitting on his throne. His ministers and soldiers were standing around him. Musa عليه السلام took his staff. He threw it on the ground. The staff turned into a huge snake! Then he put his arm in his armpit. When he took out his arm, it was shining bright! These were miracles of Allah. These were the signs Allah gave to Musa عليه السلام.





Firawn laughed at him. He mocked Musa عليه السلام and he mocked Allah. He said to Musa عليه السلام: "This is mere magic. Any of my magicians can do this." And he called his magicians to come to the palace.

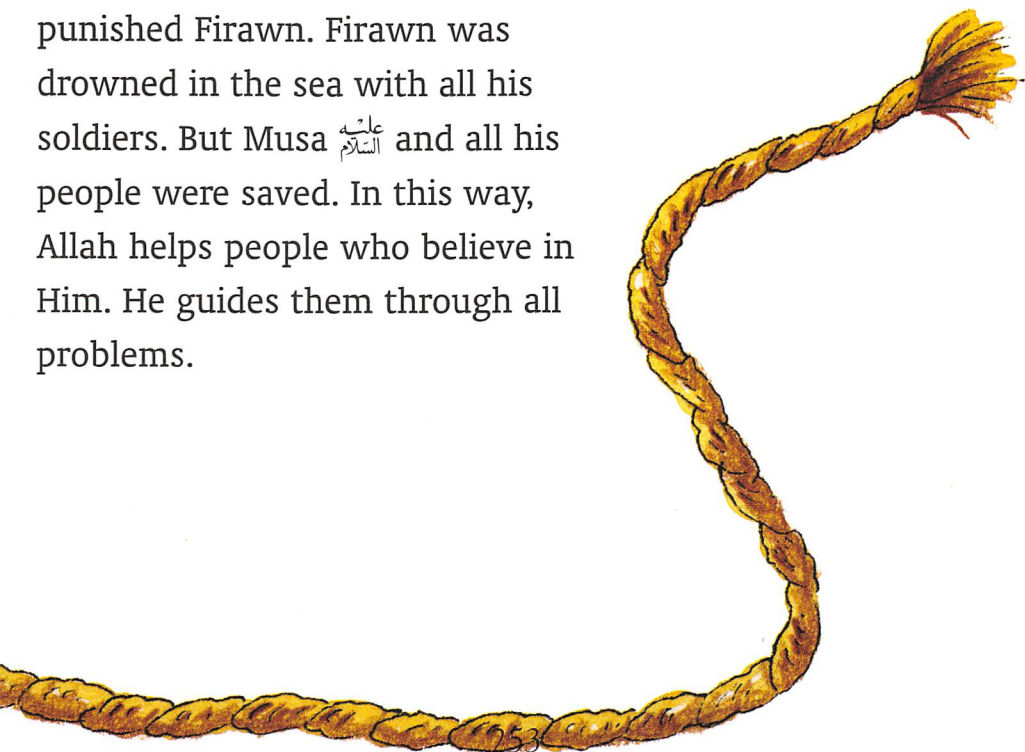
The magicians came to the palace.
Some had sticks in their hands.
Others were holding ropes. They threw
down the sticks and ropes. The sticks and
ropes fell to the ground and looked just like
snakes! The Prophet Musa عليه السلام looked at
them and was frightened.



But Allah said to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام: "Throw down your staff!" The Prophet Musa عليه السلام threw down his staff and it turned into a big snake. It ate up all the snakes of the magicians in a second!

The magicians fell to the ground in front of the Prophet Musa عليه السلام. They cried: "We believe in the Lord of Musa and Harun!"

Firawn still did not believe in Allah. So finally Allah punished Firawn. Firawn was drowned in the sea with all his soldiers. But Musa عليه السلام and all his people were saved. In this way, Allah helps people who believe in Him. He guides them through all problems.

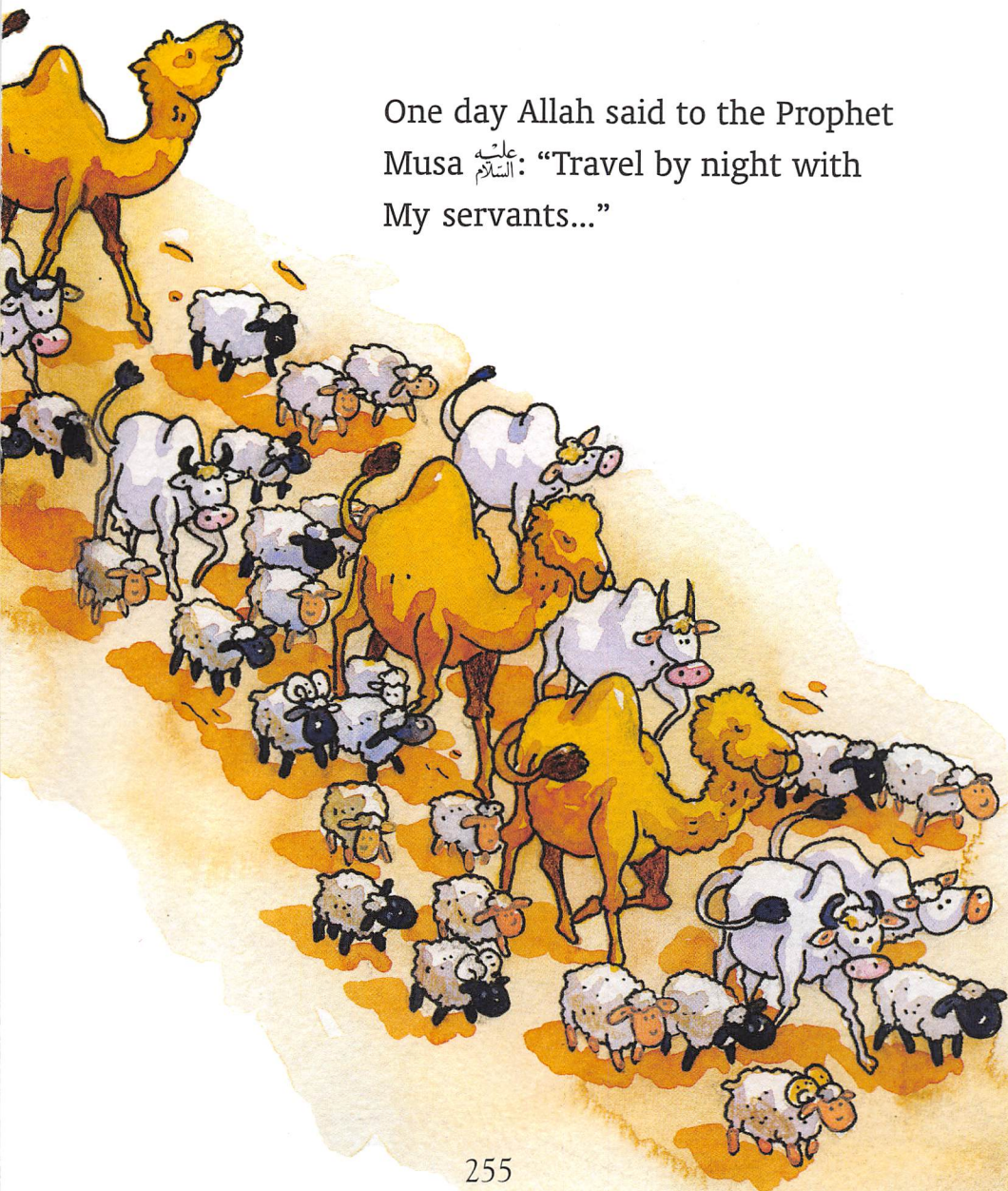


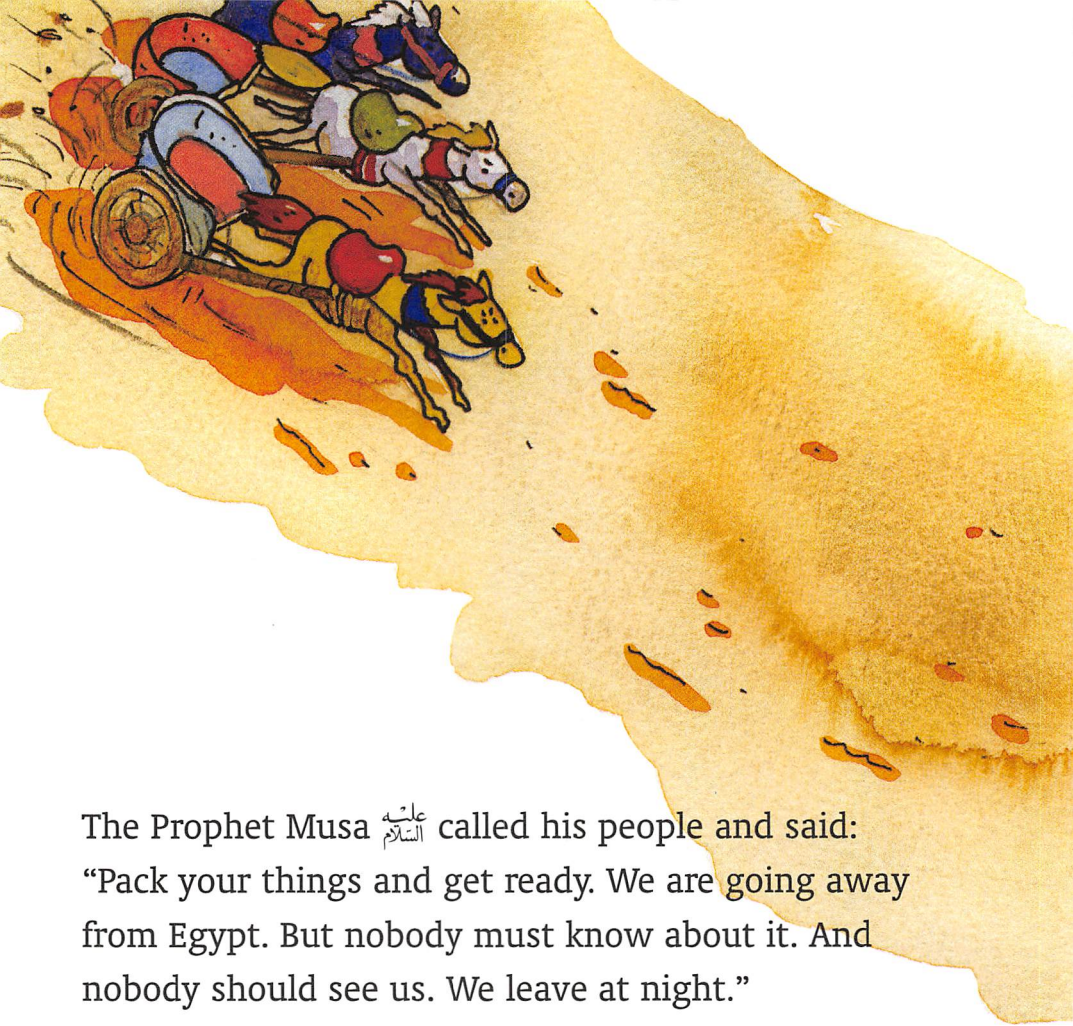
The Cruel King Drowns

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام and his people lived in Egypt. But the king of Egypt was very cruel and mean to them. He did not believe in Allah. And he did not like people who prayed to Allah. So he troubled the Prophet Musa عليه السلام and his people day and night. He told his ministers and soldiers: "Be rude to them!"

Musa عليه السلام was a prophet. He loved Allah and Allah loved him too. Every time there was a problem, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام asked Allah for help. And Allah told him what to do.

One day Allah said to the Prophet
Musa عليه السلام: "Travel by night with
My servants..."





The Prophet Musa عليه السلام called his people and said:
“Pack your things and get ready. We are going away
from Egypt. But nobody must know about it. And
nobody should see us. We leave at night.”

They left at night. There were many of them. And
among them there were many women and children.
The women and children walked very slowly and got
tired very quickly.

That is why the caravan did not move very fast.
In the morning they reached the shore of the sea.

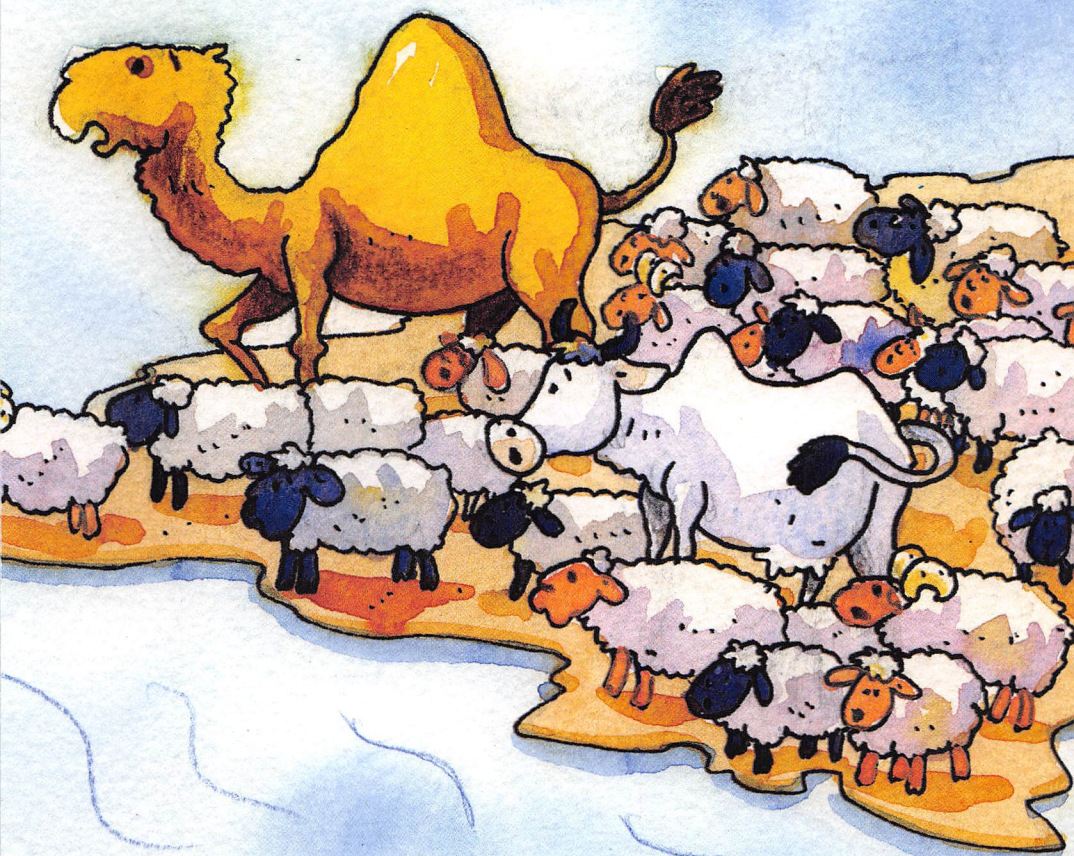
It was then that they saw some people following them.
They were moving very fast! It was Firawn and his soldiers!
They had camels and horses and soon they would catch up
with them!



Allah came to their help. He said to Musa عليه السلام:

“Strike the sea with your rod!”

As soon as the rod touched the waves, a miracle happened! The waters parted! The waves hung in mid-air and did not fall down! The sandy bottom could be seen! Allah made a path for them across the sea!





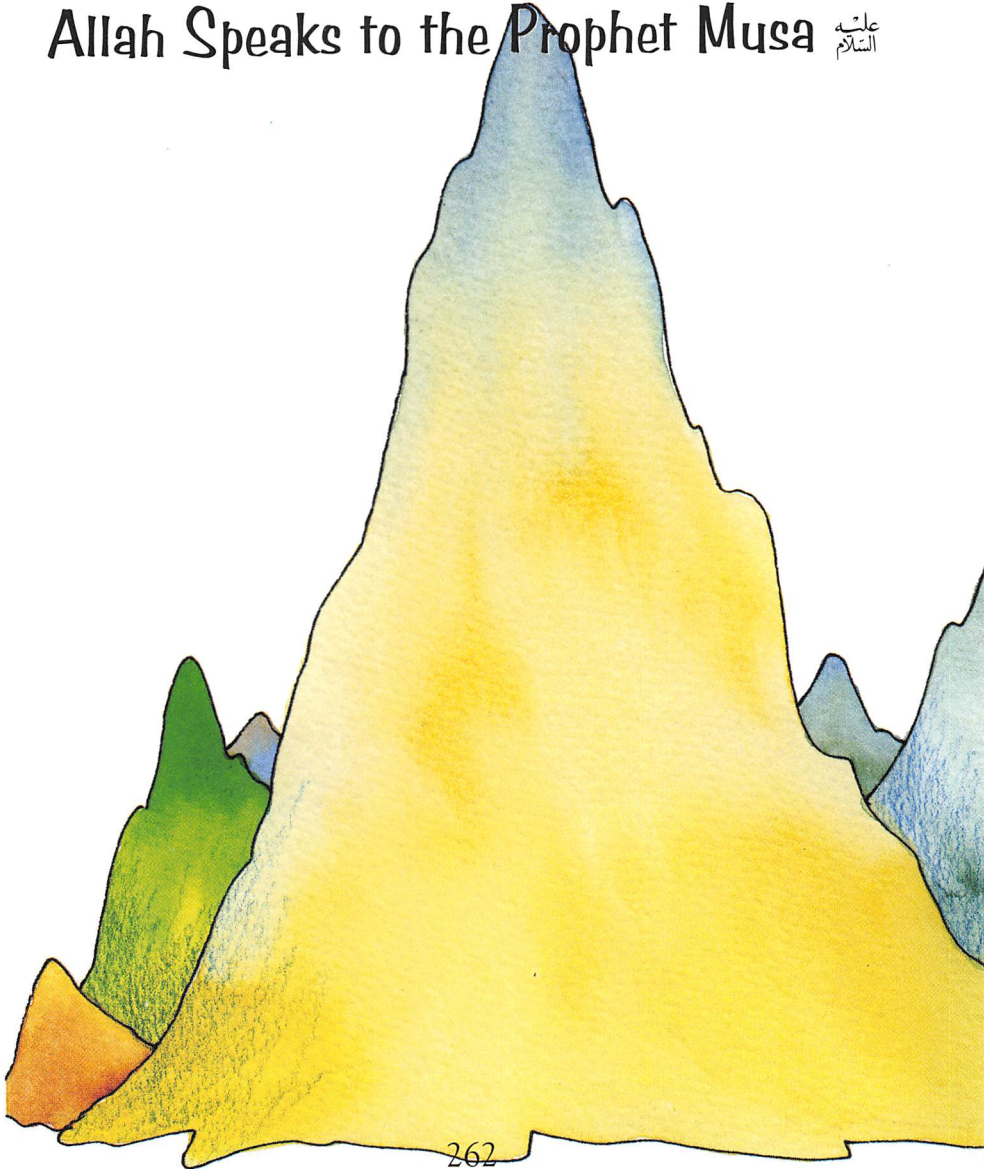
Musa عليه السلام and his people hurried between the walls of water. Firawn and his soldiers were right behind. But as soon as Musa عليه السلام and his people crossed the sea, the waves fell down. They fell down on Firawn and his soldiers! All of them drowned in the waves. None of them was saved.

Allah is Mighty and Powerful.

He helps those who love Him and pray to Him.

He saves those who trust Him.

Allah Speaks to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام

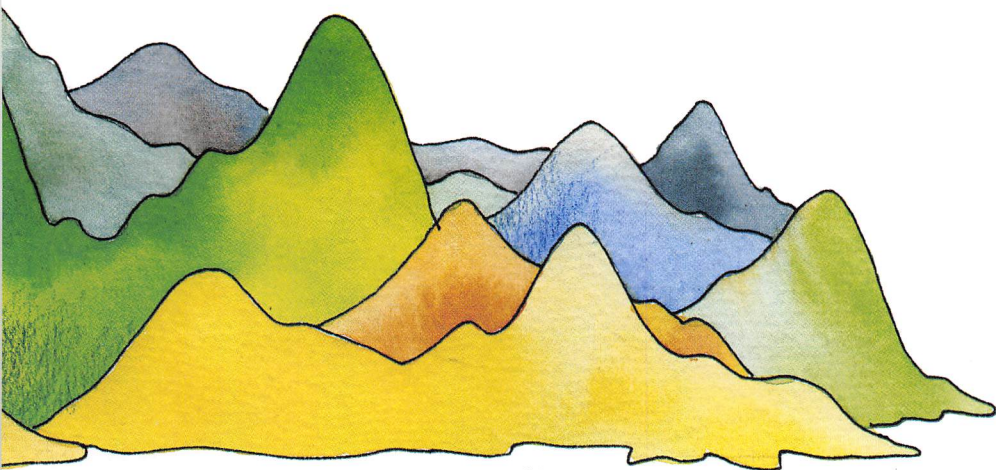




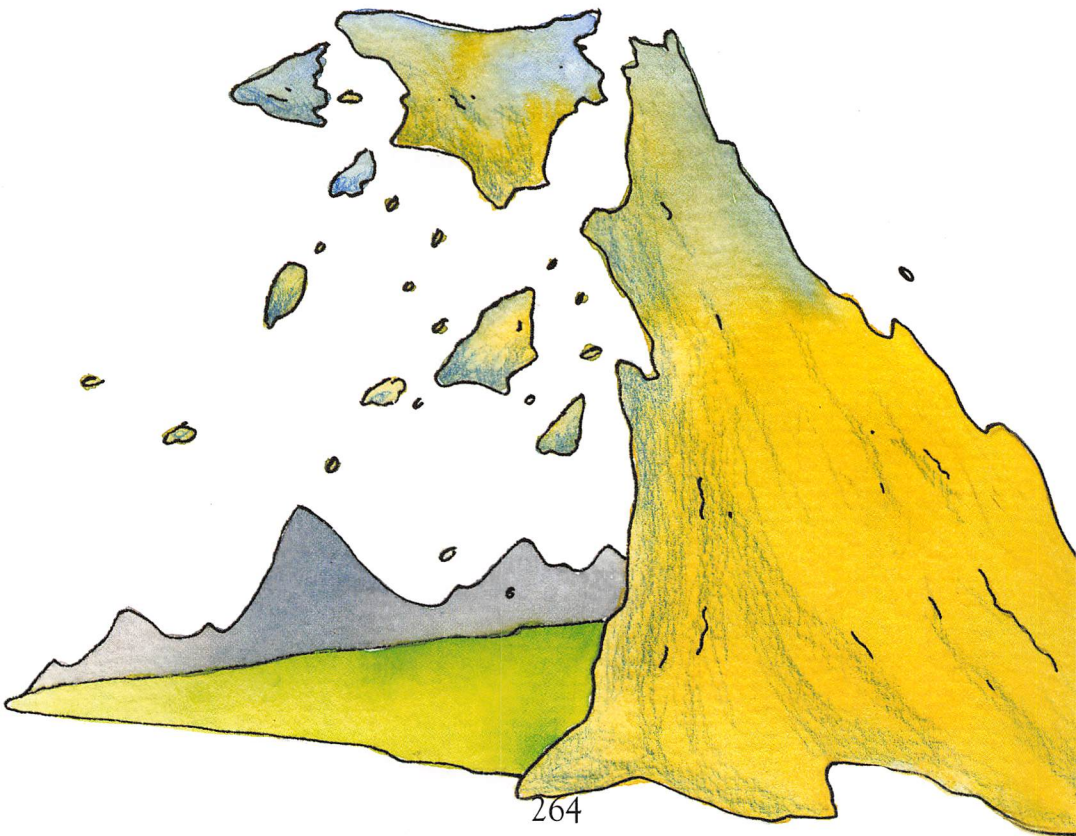
One day, Allah commanded to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام:
“Climb to the top and stay there for forty days.”

Musa عليه السلام climbed to the top of the mountain. He looked around. He saw high mountains and deep valleys. He saw green trees and colourful flowers. He saw the blue sky with little white clouds. And he thought: “Praise be to Allah for making such a beautiful world.”

The Prophet Musa’s heart filled with love for Allah.
He said to Allah: “My Lord! Show Yourself to me!
Let me look at you!”



Allah said to Musa عليه السلام: "You cannot see me directly. Do you see that mountain? Keep on looking there. My light will appear there. If the mountain does not crumble you will be able to see Me!"

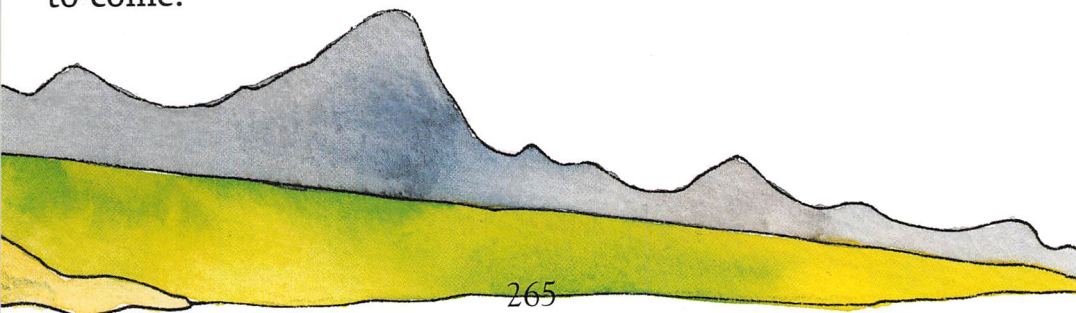


Musa عليه السلام looked at the far away mountain. When Allah's glory was manifested on the mountain.

Immediately the mountain crumbled away! Musa too fell down. When Musa عليه السلام came back to his senses, he cried to Allah: "Glory be to You!"

Allah commanded Musa عليه السلام to give his message to people, and take the Tablets with His Commandments. Allah said, your people should follow my commandments. Musa عليه السلام took the stone Tablets from Allah. All the commandments of Allah were written on them. This was the Torah. Musa عليه السلام took the Torah and went back to his people.

Allah guides people in all ages. At the time of Musa عليه السلام, He gave people the Torah. And to the Last Prophet, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Allah gave the Qur'an. The Qur'an gives the best guidance for all time to come.



The Prophet Musa's People Disobey Allah

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام was
coming down the mountain.
He was very happy.

Musa عليه السلام knew that Allah had just spoken to him. He gave him the Tablets with His commandments. Musa عليه السلام wanted to tell this good news to his people. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام hurried down the mountain slope. He could see the tents of his people in the distance. In no time he reached the tents in which his people lived.

And what did Musa عليه السلام see? In the empty space between the tents a big crowd had gathered. And in the middle of the crowd there was a calf made of gold! The people were bowing down to the golden calf! Musa عليه السلام looked at the golden calf. He looked at his people bowing to the calf. And he became very angry. Musa عليه السلام put down the Tablets, which Allah had given him. Then he called his brother Harun عليه السلام.

He became very angry with him: "Why did you let on people forget Allah?" Harun عليه السلام said: "The People did not listen to me. They almost killed me when I told them to remember Allah." Musa عليه السلام turned to Allah and prayed: "My Lord! Forgive my brother. Forgive me. You are the Most Merciful." Musa عليه السلام picked up the Tablets and held them high. He showed the Tablets to his people. He told them that Allah had given these Tablets to him.



“Read what is written. These are His commandments. His commandments will guide us. Ask Allah to forgive you for your sins. Pray to Him.” And Allah forgave them. He said: “I punish whom I want. But I am Merciful to all.”

Allah rewards those who love Him. And He punishes the wicked men. He also forgives those who pray for forgiveness.

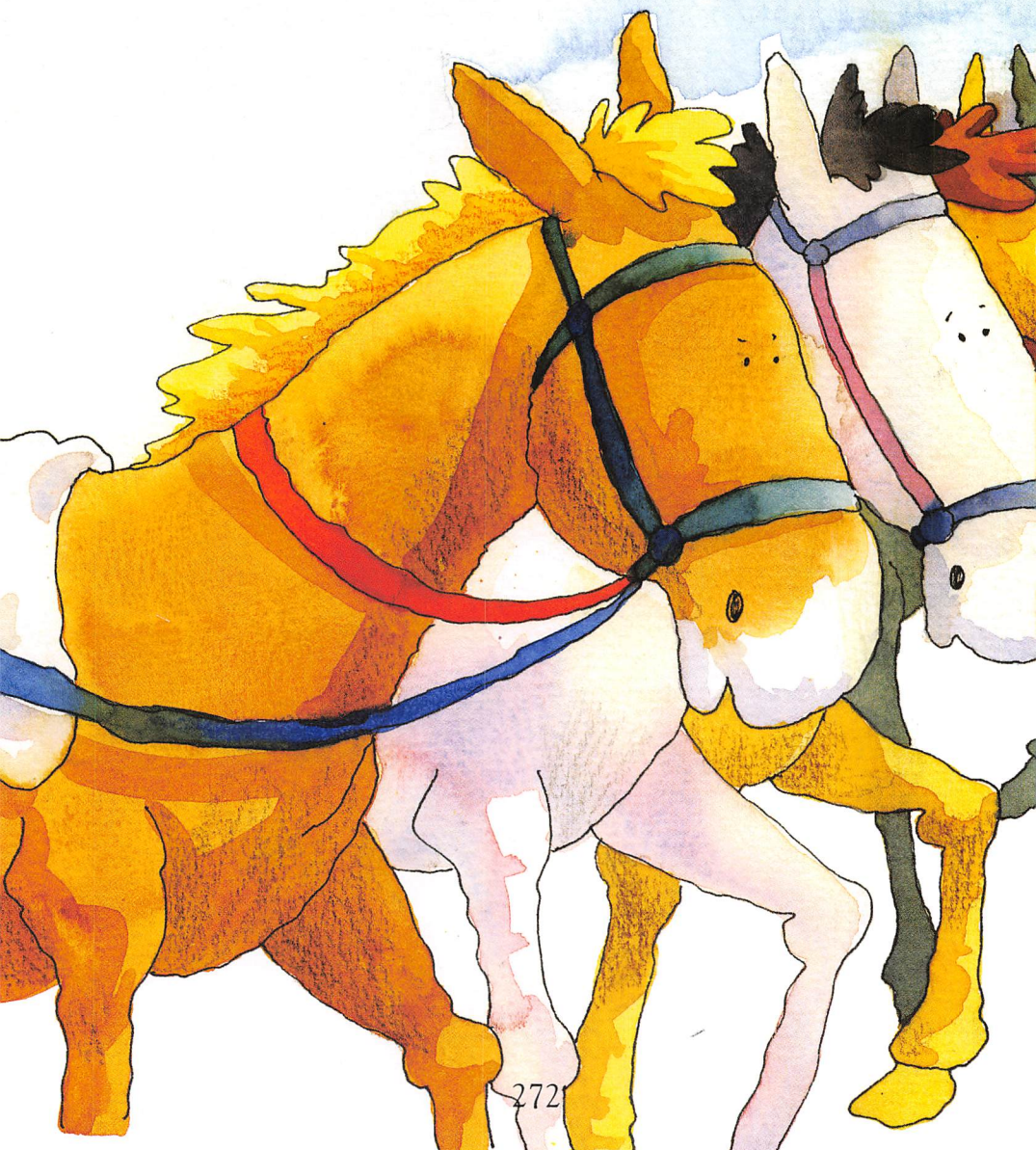




A Brave Boy

The Children of Israel lived in the beautiful, green land of Canaan. But they became proud and forgot to pray to Allah. So they fell on bad days.







Enemies surrounded the land of Canaan. They defeated the Children of Israel and plundered their land. Allah took pity on them. He sent the Prophet Shamuel ^{عليه السلام} to teach them to be good. The Children of Israel had no leader. They did not have a king to fight the enemies. So the Prophet Shamuel chose Talut to be their king.

Talut was a very good and wise man. He gathered a huge army. And he set out to fight the enemy.

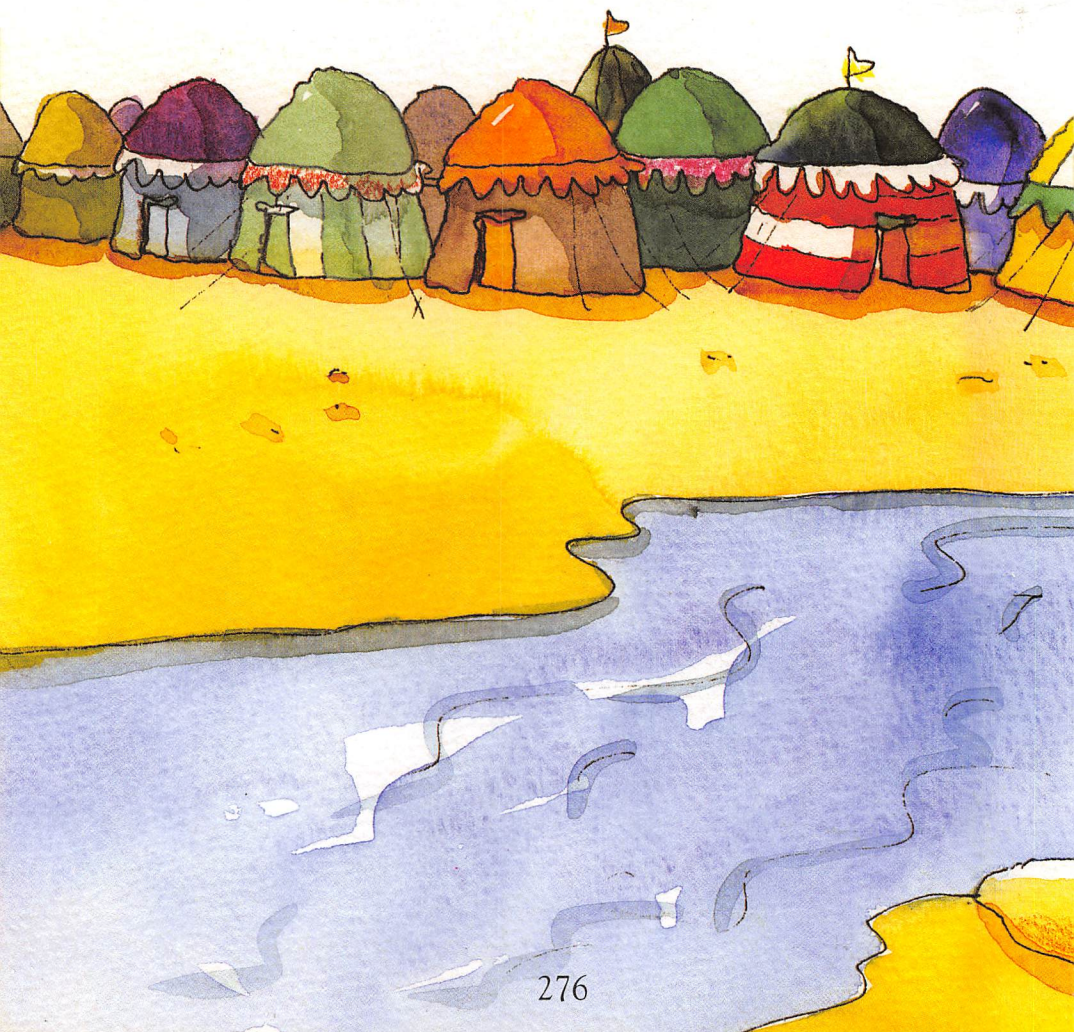
King Talut and his army reached a river. They saw their enemies on the other bank waiting for them. Their army was even bigger than the army of king Talut!

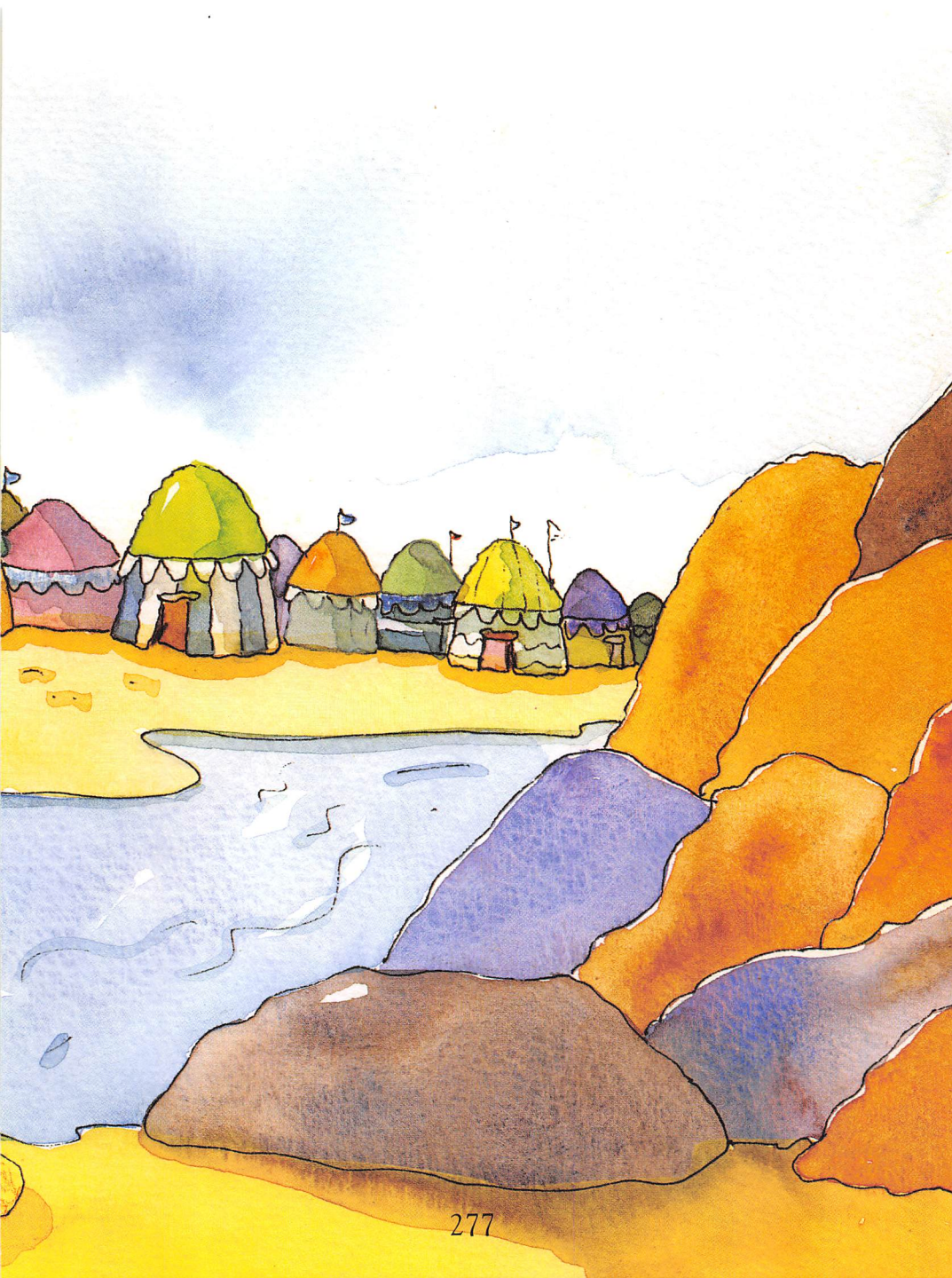
And a giant called Jalut was leading them! Talut called his soldiers and said: “We are going to cross the river. Allah will test us there. Don’t drink water from the river. Only those who don’t drink water will fight by my side.” But the soldiers did not listen to their king. Almost all of them drank the river water. The King was left with only a few faithful soldiers.



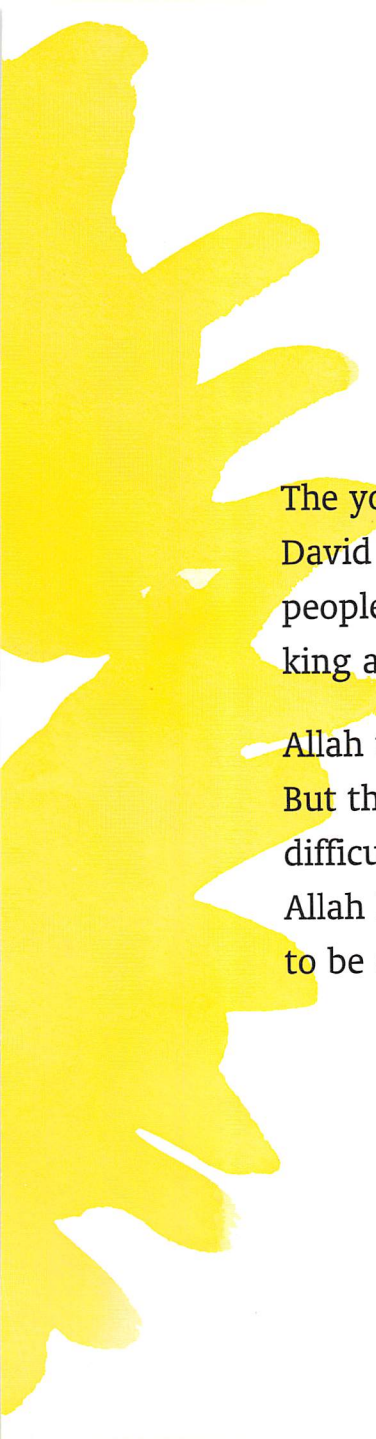


There were very few soldiers with king Talut. And the army of their enemy was huge! The soldiers were very scared. Suddenly, a young man appeared. He fought and killed the giant Jalut!







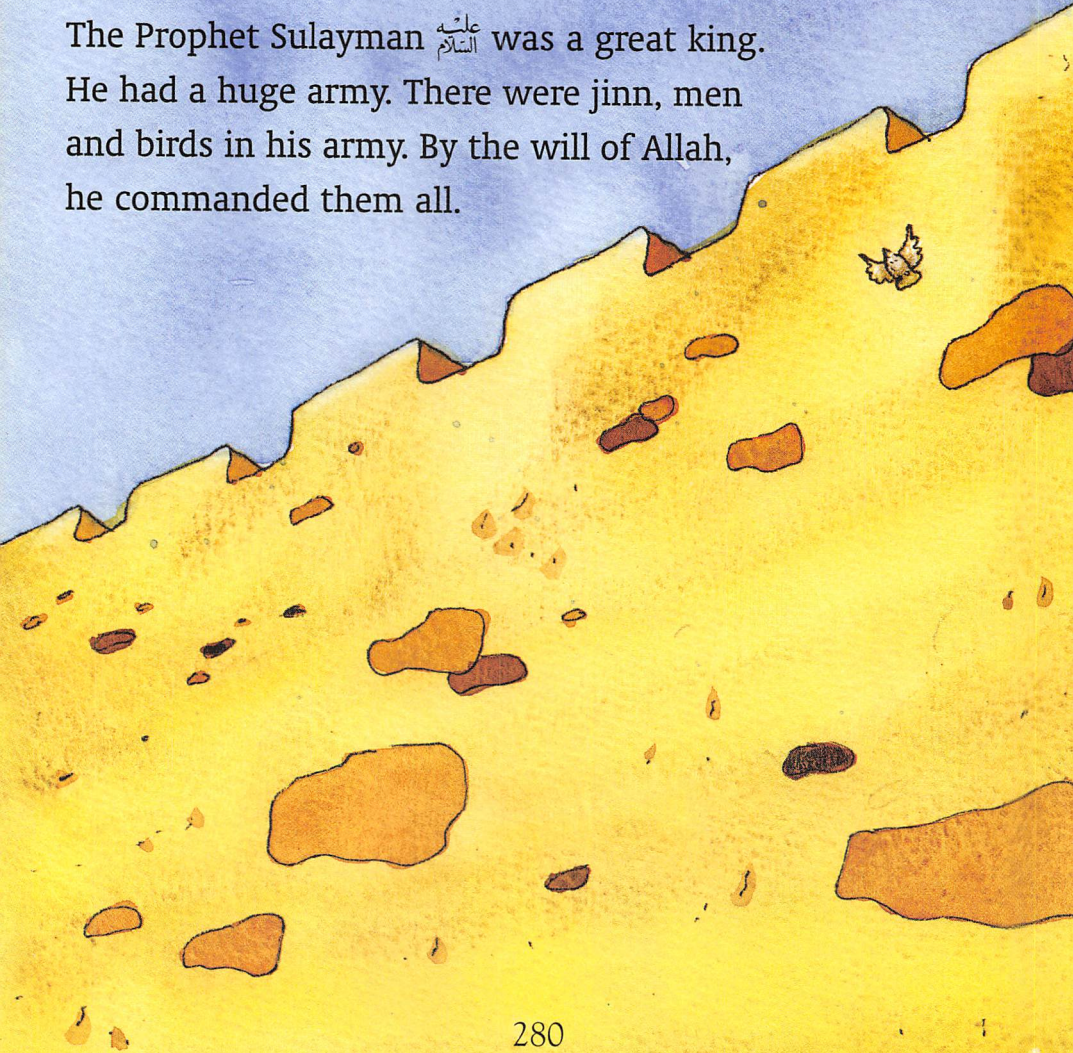


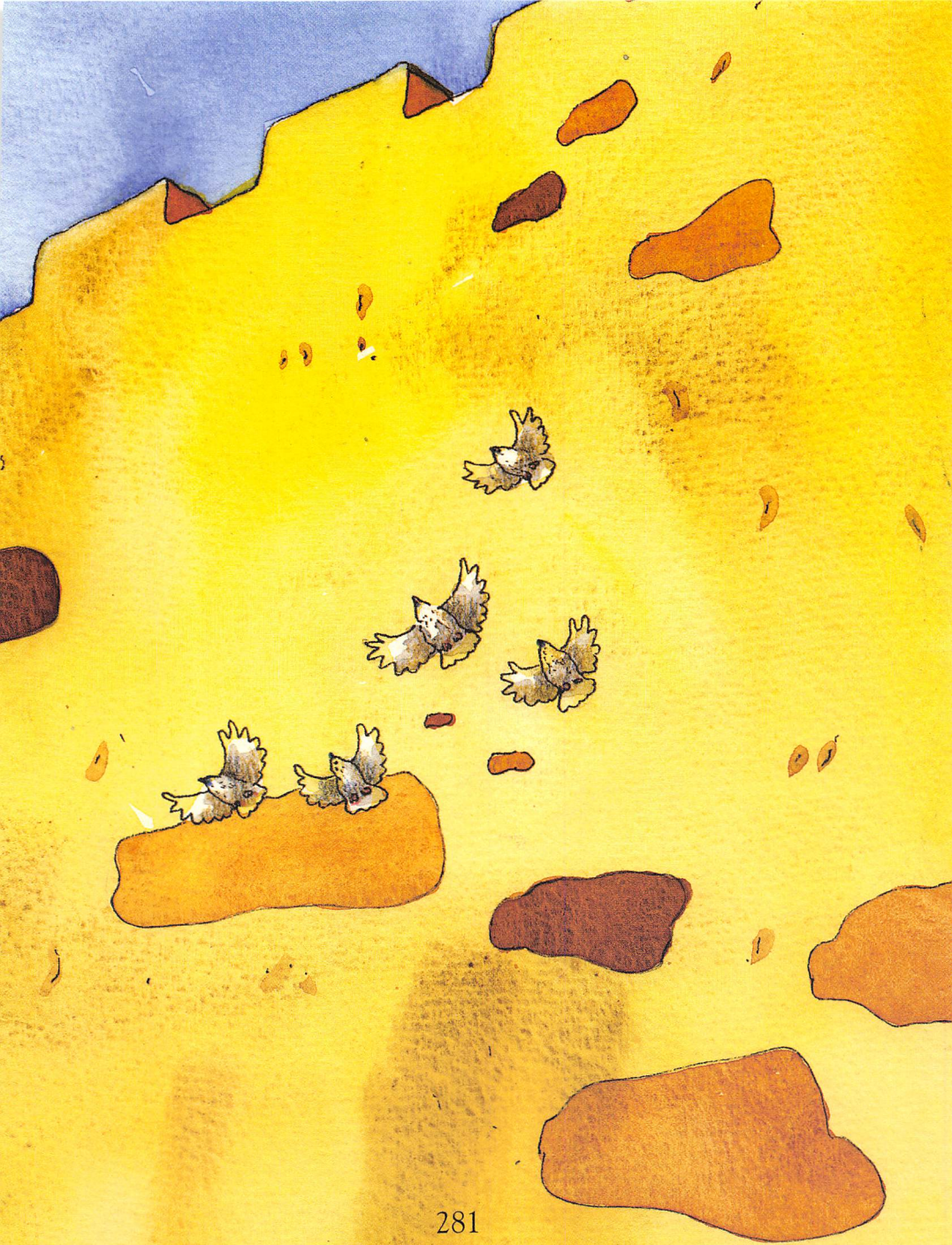
The young man's name was Dawud, or David عليه السلام. Allah sent him to save His people. Dawud عليه السلام grew up to be a great king and a great prophet.

Allah tests people in different ways. But this is not to make their lives difficult. This is to make people better. Allah loves all people and wants them to be always good.

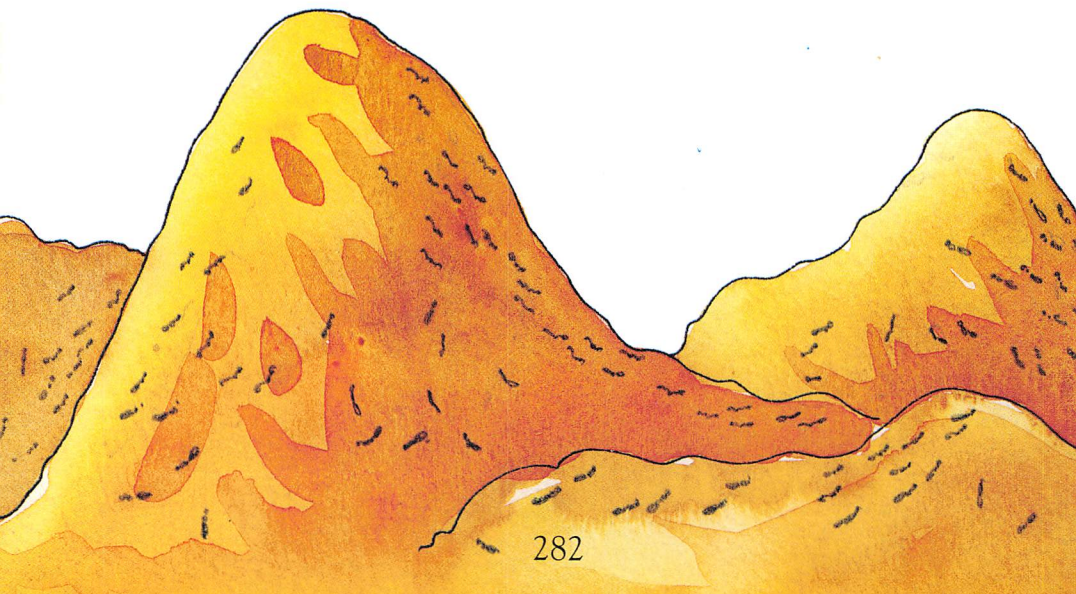
The Valley of Ants

The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام was a great king. He had a huge army. There were jinn, men and birds in his army. By the will of Allah, he commanded them all.



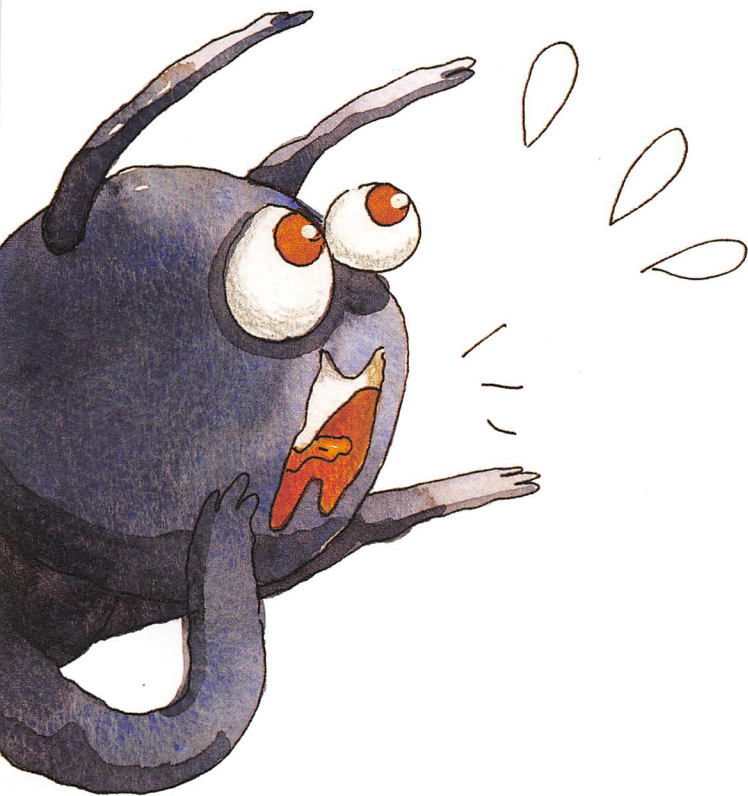


One day the army was marching across a valley.
The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام was riding in front.
Suddenly he heard a voice.



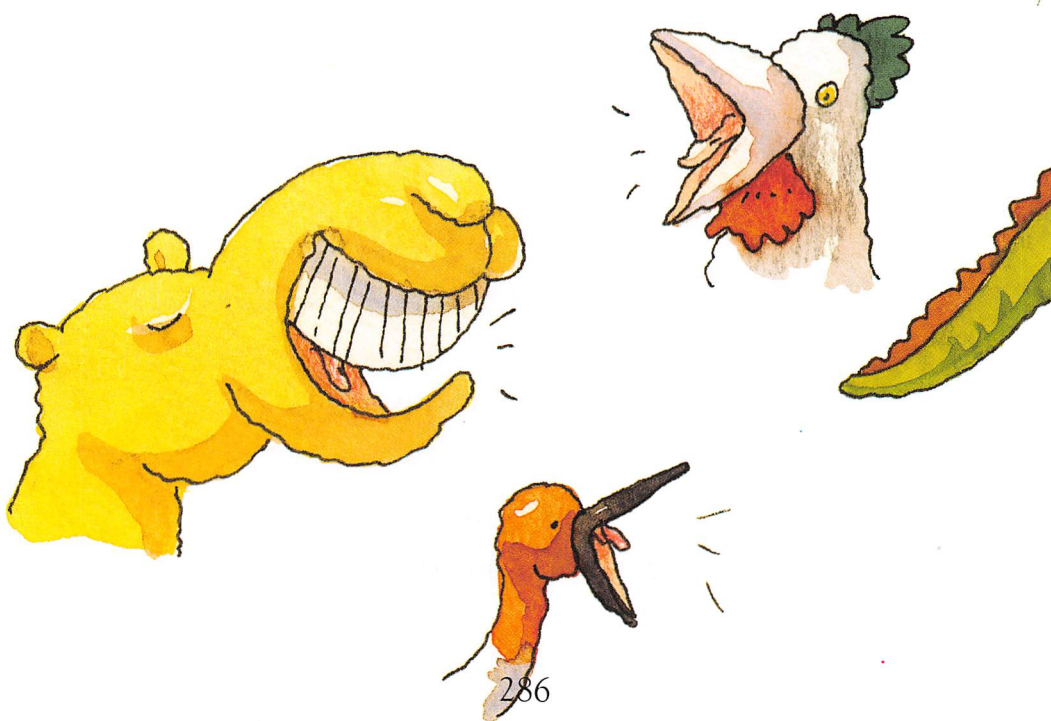


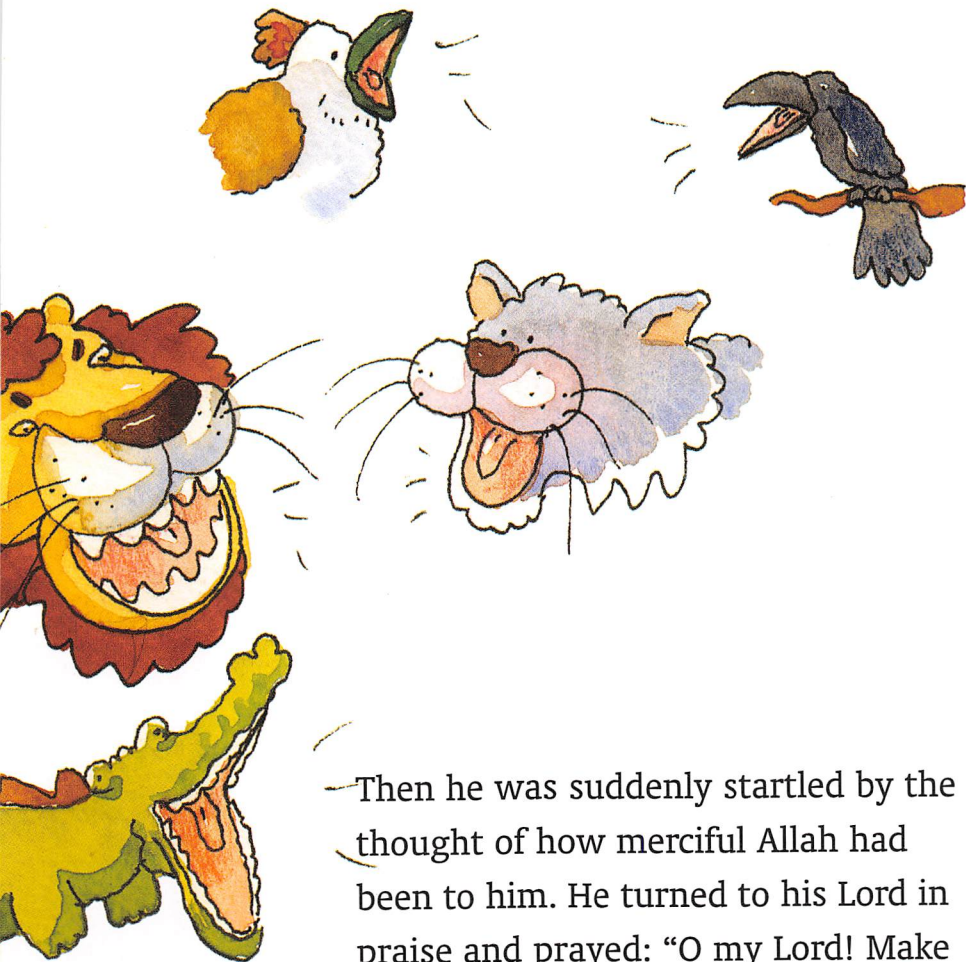




He looked around and saw a little ant speaking.
The ant was calling to other ants: "O you ants, run
off home before Sulayman and his army tread on
you by mistake!"

The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام smiled. He knew the language of the birds. And he could also understand the language of the ants. He could understand the words of any creature on earth.

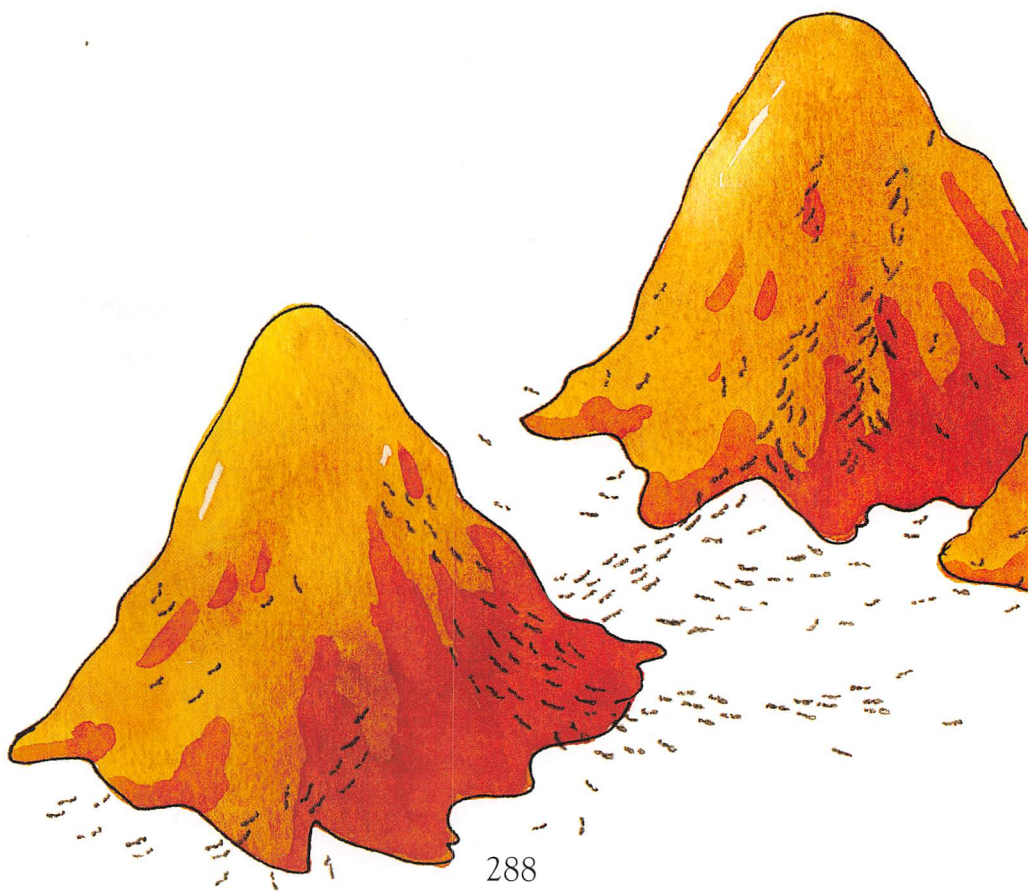




—Then he was suddenly startled by the thought of how merciful Allah had been to him. He turned to his Lord in praise and prayed: “O my Lord! Make me grateful to You for Your favours, which You have given me and my parents, and I will do what is right to please You. And by Your grace, make me one of Your righteous servants.”

The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام told the army to march carefully.
He told them not to step on the ants.
And he told them not to disturb the ants' houses.

When the world is happy, Allah is happy too.
Every creature, even a tiny one, has its own work to
do in this world.





This is how Allah wants this world to run. Allah thinks of every single creature. He looks after all. We too must always think of others, whatever we may be doing.

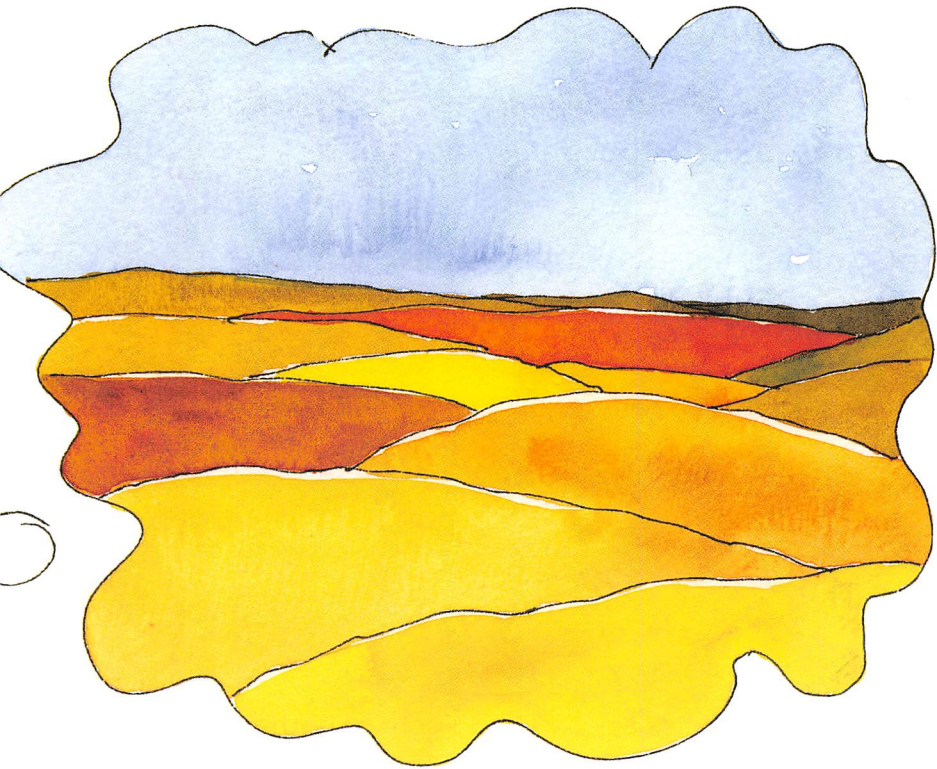
The Queen of Saba

One day a bird came to the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام.

He said to the king: "I saw a beautiful palace. It is very far away. One has to cross many deserts to reach it.

A wise queen is ruling it.



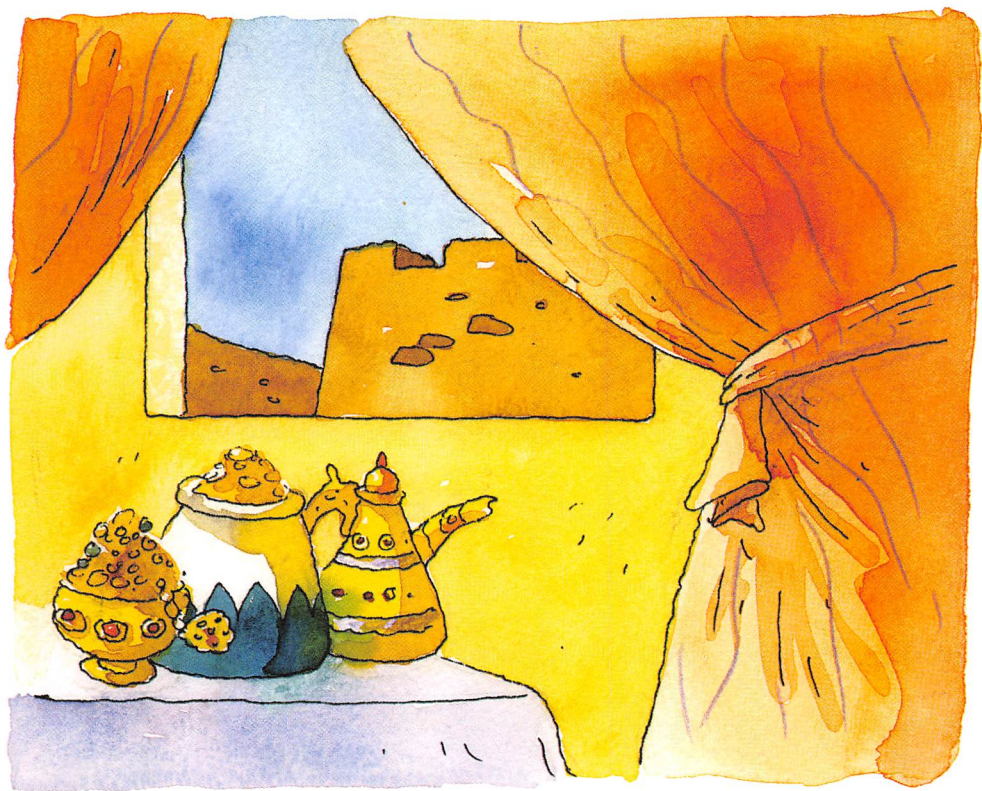


She has a magnificent throne. But she and her subjects worship the sun instead of Allah.”

The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام wrote a letter to the Queen. This is what he wrote: “In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Don’t be proud. Come to me in all submission.”

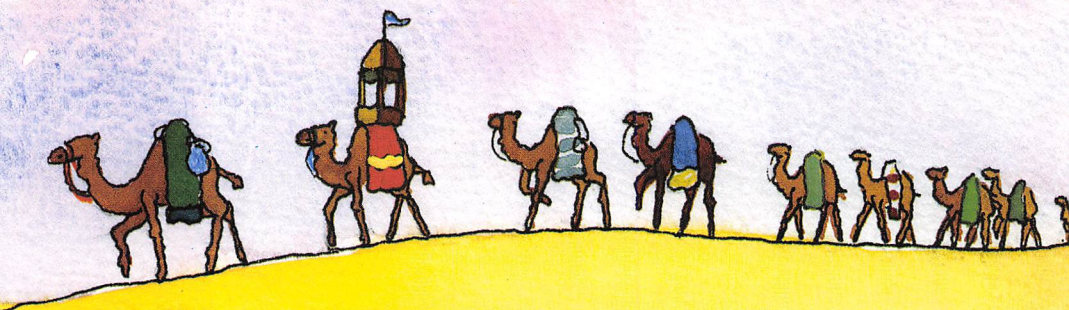
The Queen read the letter. She wanted to test the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام first. She sent her ambassadors with many presents to him. But the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام refused to accept her gifts.





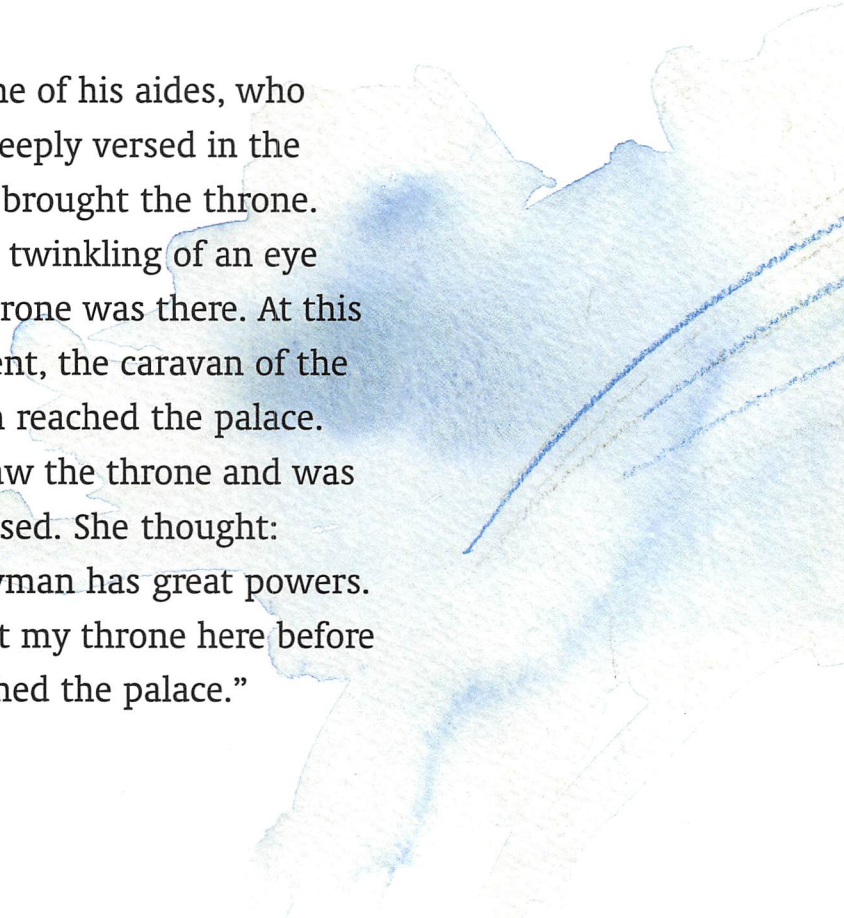
The ambassadors returned to their Queen. They said to her:
“The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام does not want your gifts.
He wants you to come and submit to him. He will destroy
your kingdom if you don’t obey.”



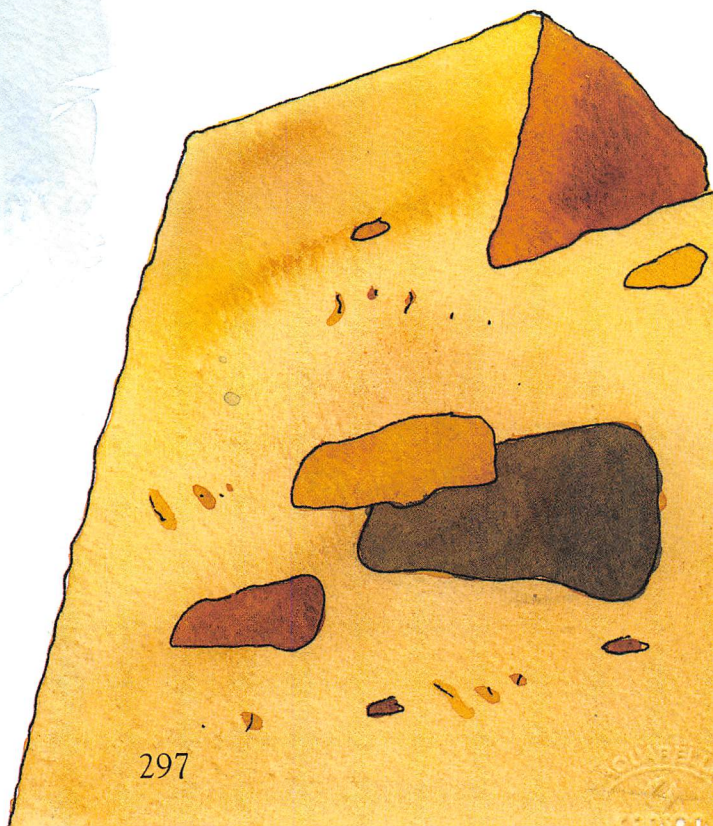


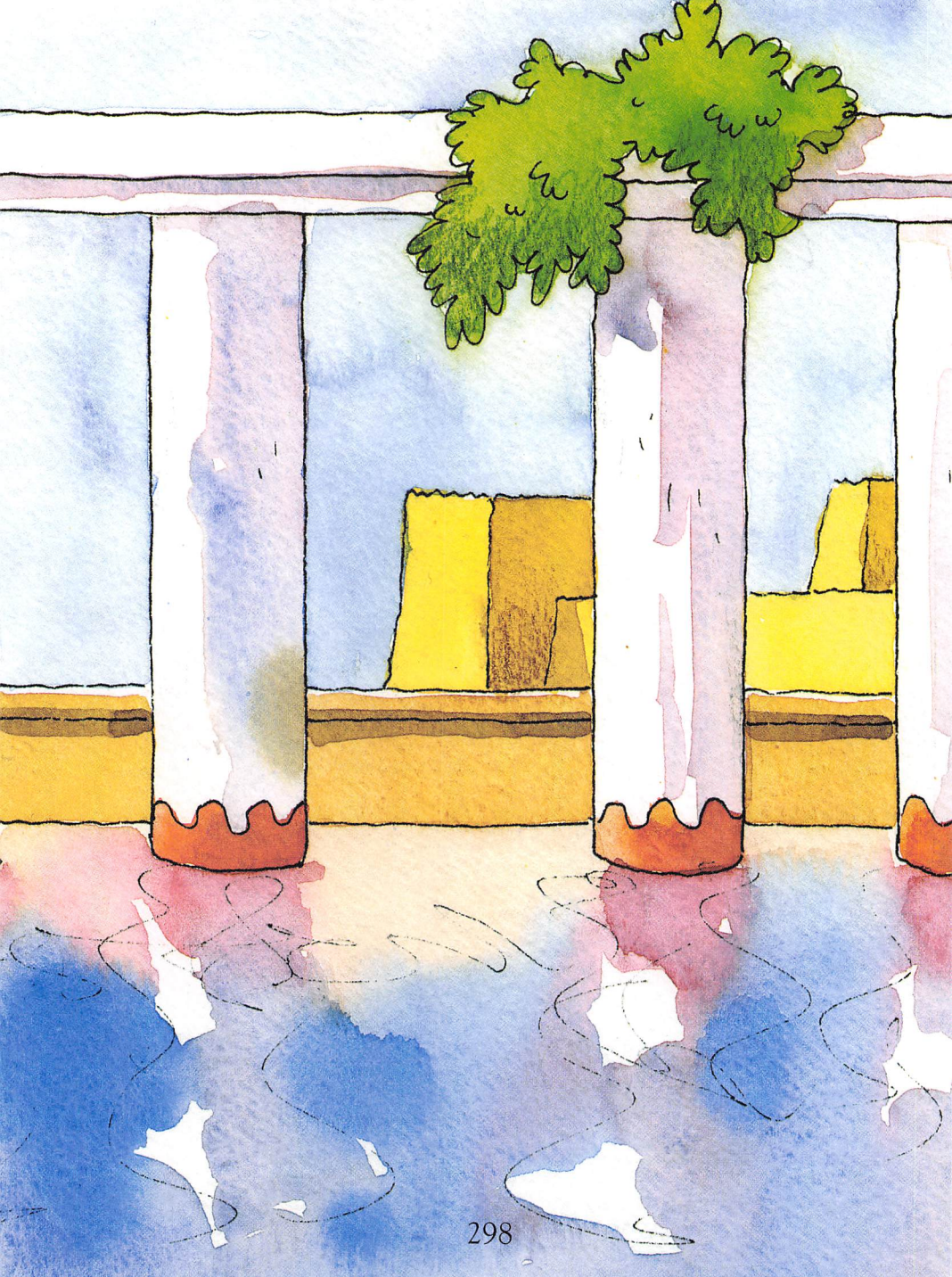
The Queen set out with her court to meet the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام. Before she reached his kingdom, the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام told the jinn:

“Which one of you can bring me the Queen’s throne before she arrives here?” A very powerful jinn, whose name was Ifrit said, “I will bring it to you before you rise from your seat.”



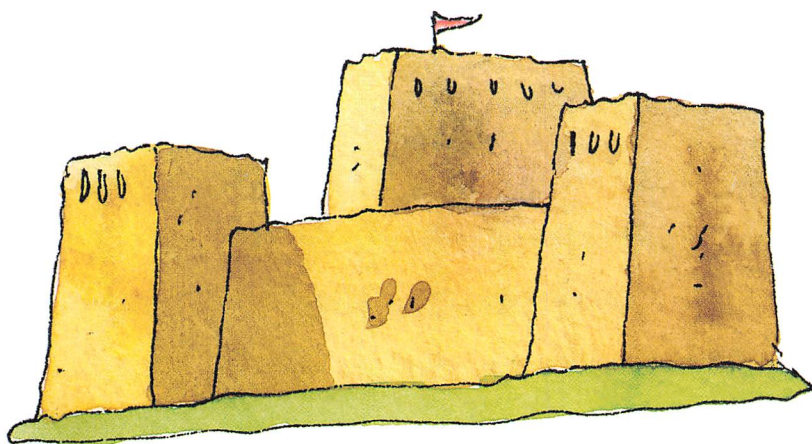
But one of his aides, who
was deeply versed in the
Book, brought the throne.
In the twinkling of an eye
the throne was there. At this
moment, the caravan of the
Queen reached the palace.
She saw the throne and was
surprised. She thought:
“Sulayman has great powers.
He got my throne here before
I reached the palace.”



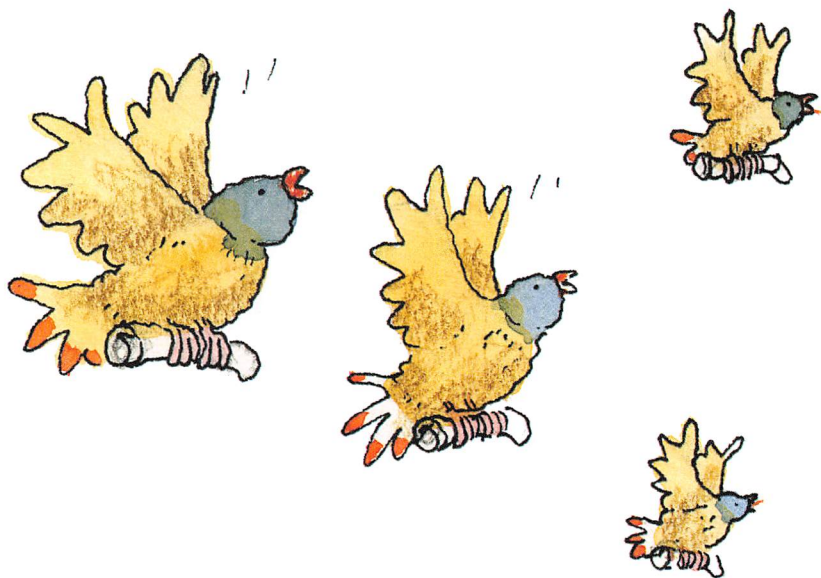


She entered the palace. She saw beautiful lake in front of her. She picked up her skirt so that it would not get wet and stepped in. As she put her foot down, she heard the Prophet Sulayman ^{عليه السلام} speaking to her: "This is not a lake! This is a hall of my palace. The floor is glass you can see through and there is water flowing underneath." The Queen bowed her head. She said humbly: "Lord! I was mistaken. I have sinned against my soul. Now I submit with Sulayman to Allah, the Lord of the Universe."

Things are not always what they seem to be.
Those who want, keep their eyes open and can see the hidden truth.



The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام and the Jinn

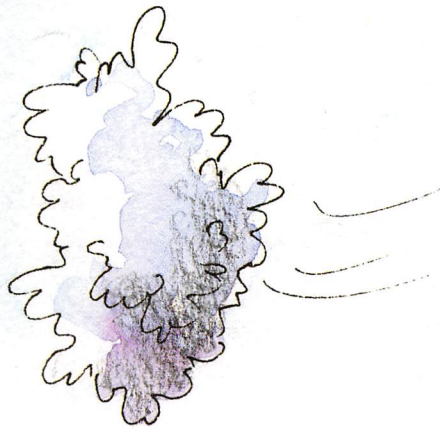


Allah gave the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام many wonderful gifts. He taught him the language of the birds. The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام trained the birds. They worked in his army as messengers.

Allah gave the Prophet Sulayman ^{عليه السلام} power over the winds. The Prophet Sulayman ^{عليه السلام} made the winds blow gently. He did not let them wreck his ships. Finally, Allah gave the Prophet Sulayman ^{عليه السلام} control over the jinn.

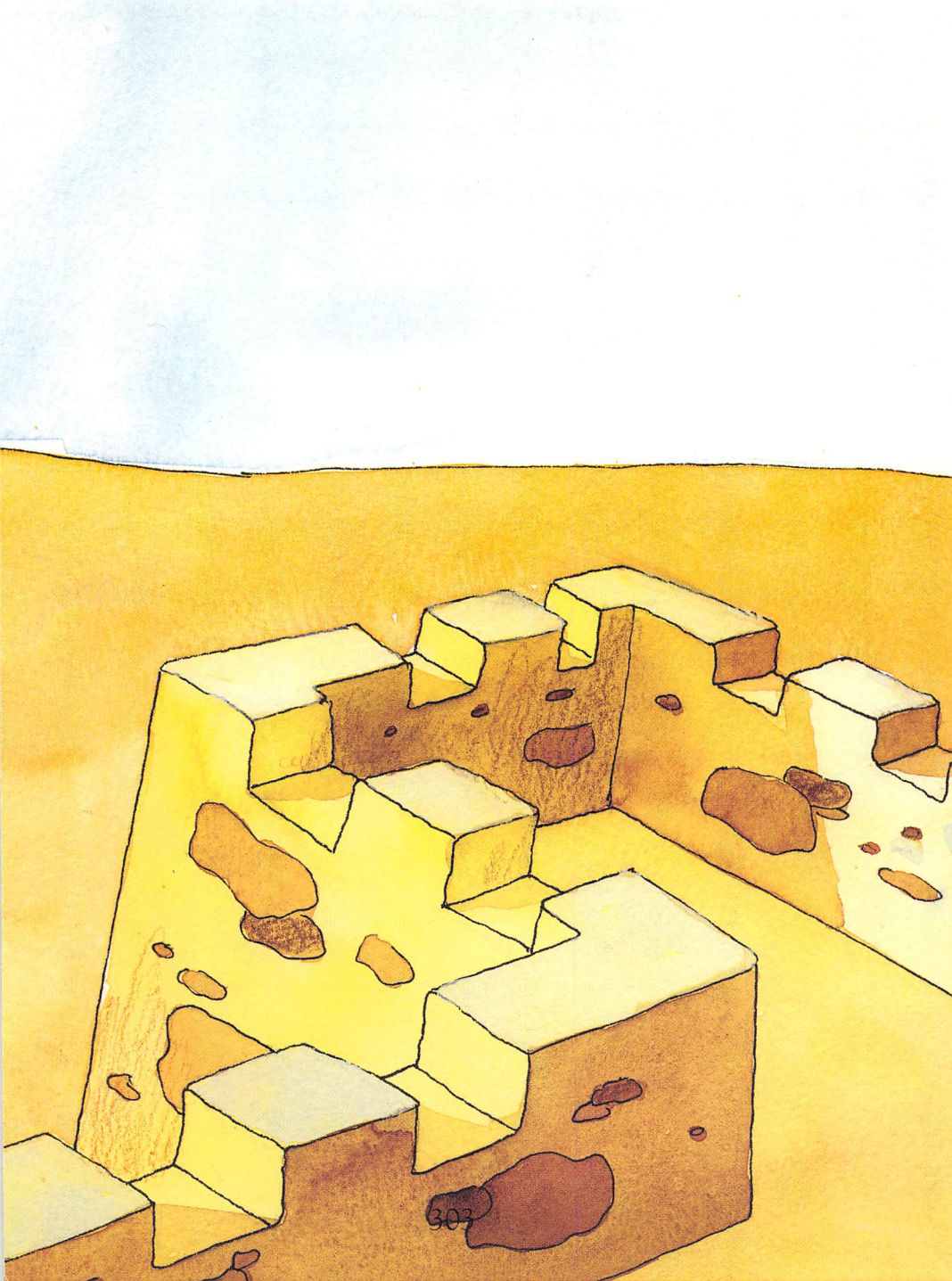
The Prophet Sulayman ^{عليه السلام} could make the jinn do whatever he wanted. Many of them served in his army. They went wherever he went. They obeyed his every command.





One day the Queen of Saba came to meet the Prophet Sulayman ^{عليه السلام}. Sulayman wanted to surprise her. He told the jinn: “Who can bring the throne of the Queen from her palace.” In the twinkling of an eye, the throne was standing in front of the king.

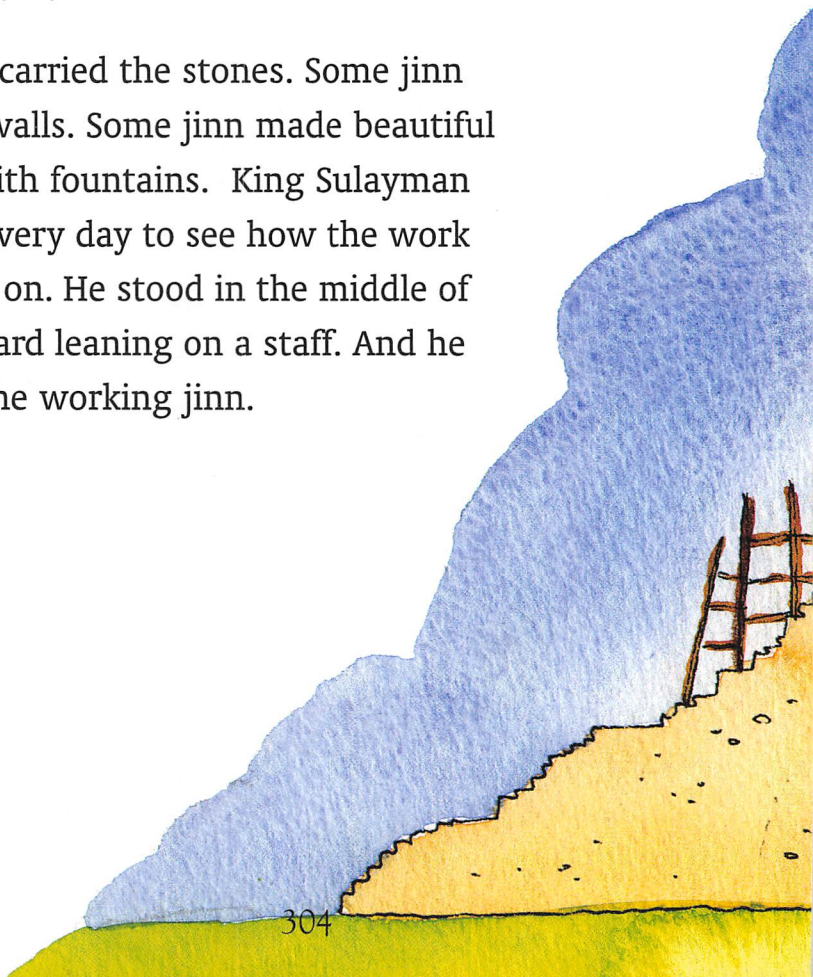
The Queen of Saba saw the throne and was very surprised. She thought: “Sulayman is very powerful. Let me listen to him and bow to Allah.” And she became a believer.



One day the Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام decided to build a huge building.

He wanted people to come there and pray to Allah. So he called the jinn and put them to work.

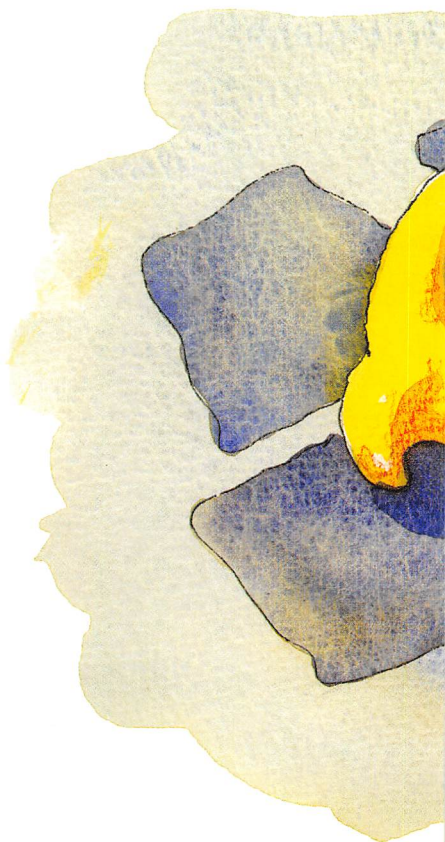
Some jinn carried the stones. Some jinn build the walls. Some jinn made beautiful gardens with fountains. King Sulayman عليه السلام came every day to see how the work was going on. He stood in the middle of the courtyard leaning on a staff. And he watched the working jinn.





The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام was leaning on his staff when the Angel of Death came. The Angel of Death took his soul and he died. But he kept on standing supported by the staff. The jinn did not know that he had died and kept on working.

One day white ants got into the wooden staff. They made the staff hollow and it broke down. Sulayman عليه السلام fell down. Only then did the jinn come to know that he was dead!



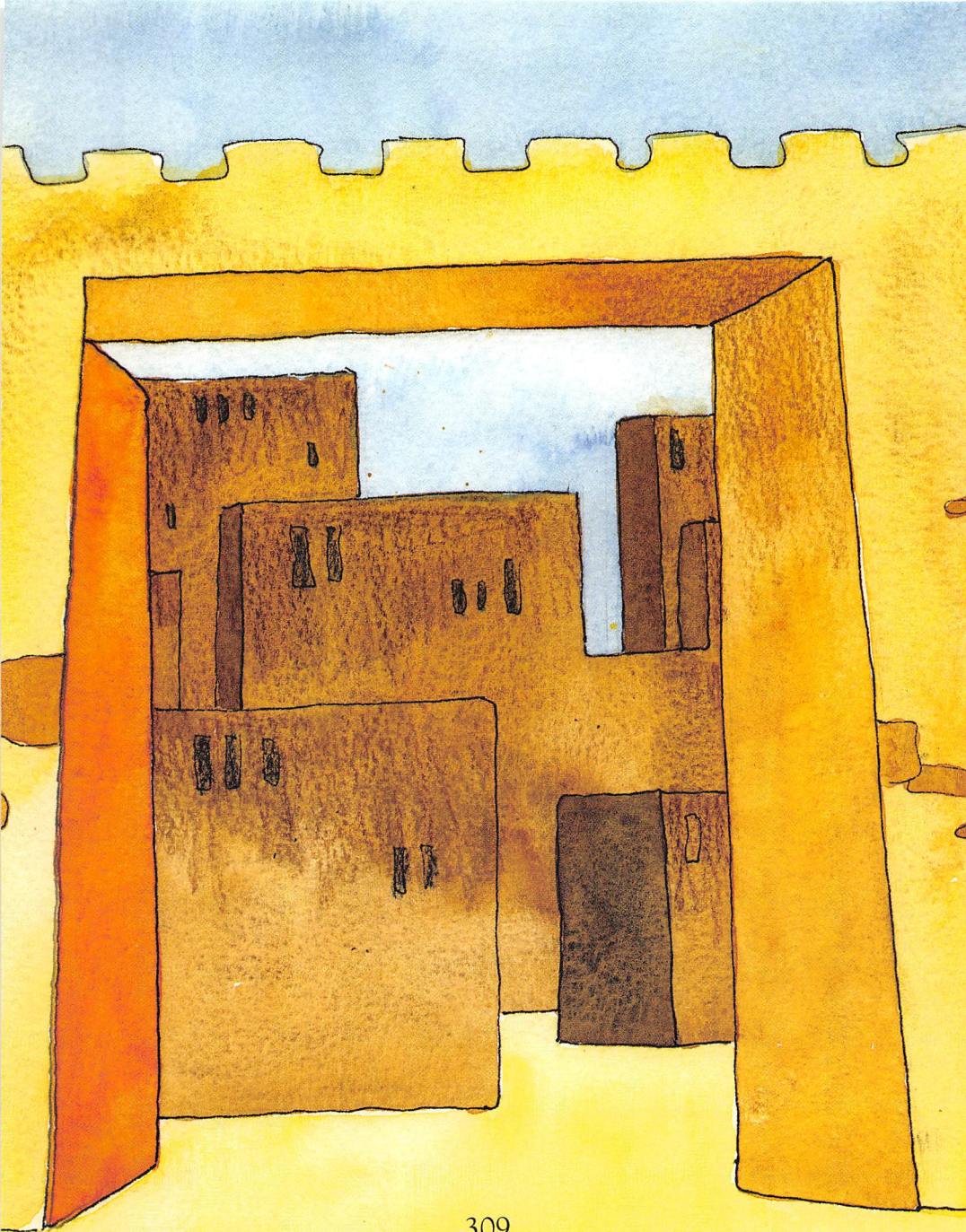
Nobody but Allah knows what really happens.
He is the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing.

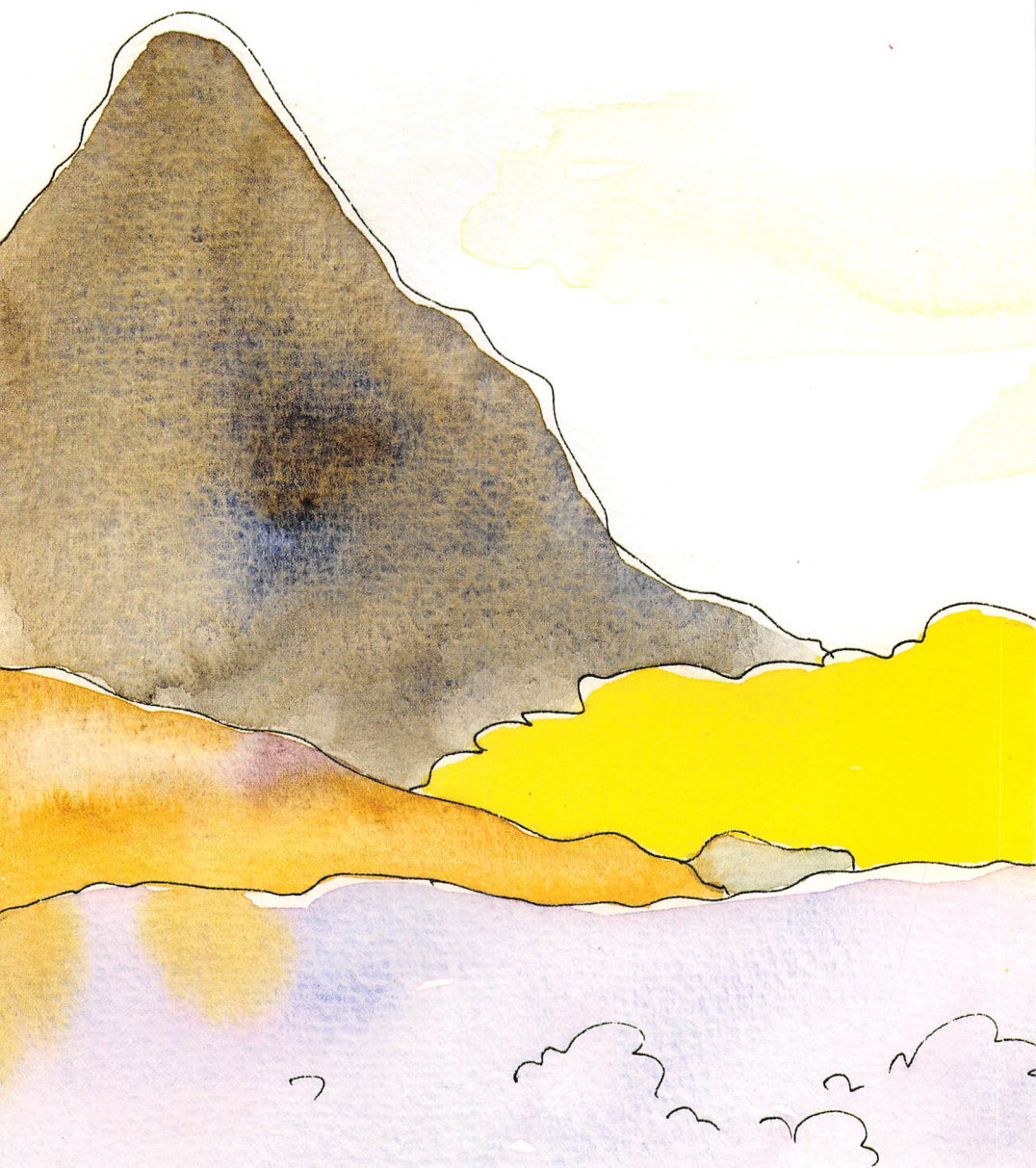




The Iron Wall

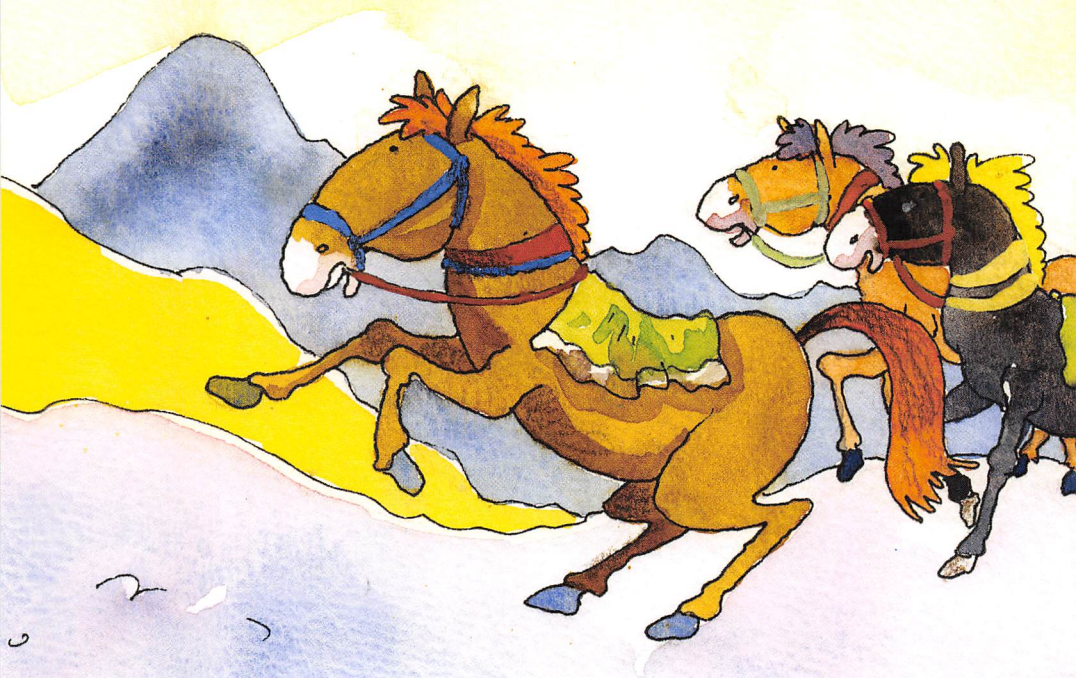
A long time ago, there lived a king called Dhul Qarnayn. Allah gave him a very vast kingdom. He ruled his kingdom very well. People loved him and obeyed him.

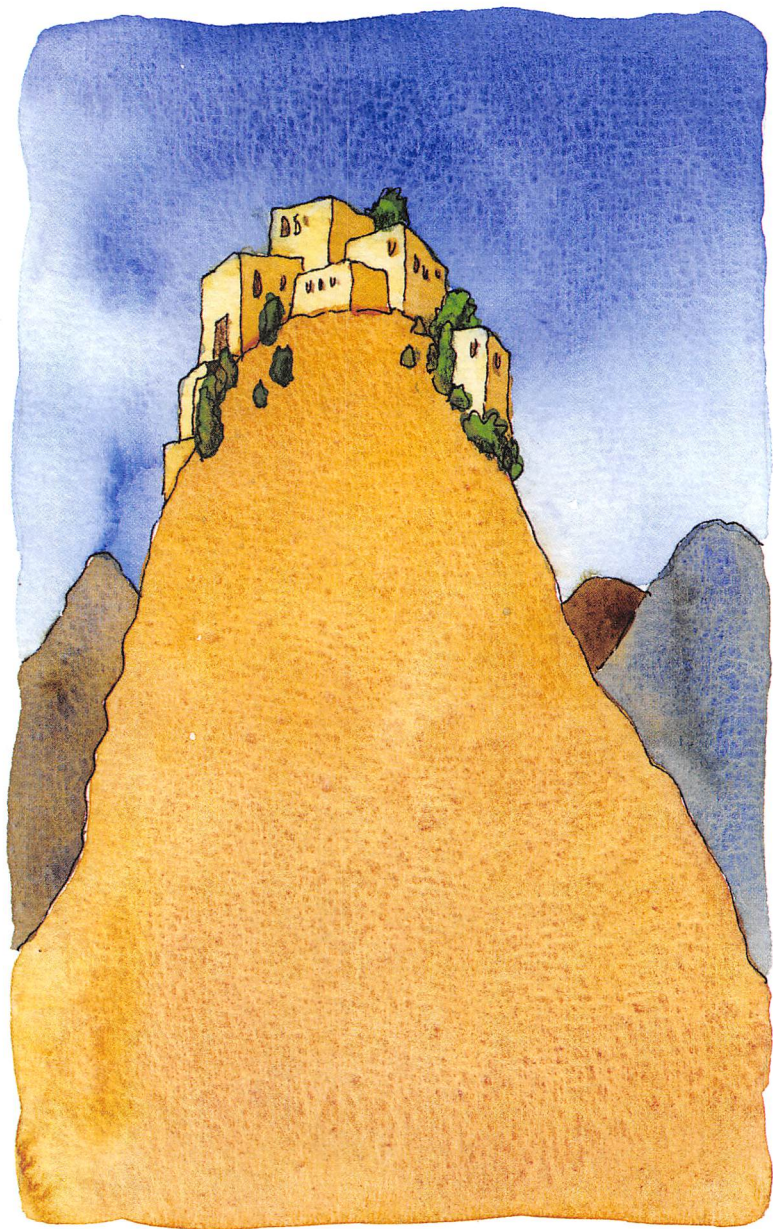




Dhul Qarnayn hated injustice. He hated it when some people treated other people badly. All the time he travelled from one end of the kingdom to the other. He punished wicked people and rewarded the good ones.

After riding on his horse for many days, Dhul Qarnayn reached the mountains. The people of the mountains came to him.





They said: “The people of Yajuj and Majuj (Gog and Magog) attack our land. They destroy our homes. Please protect us from them!”

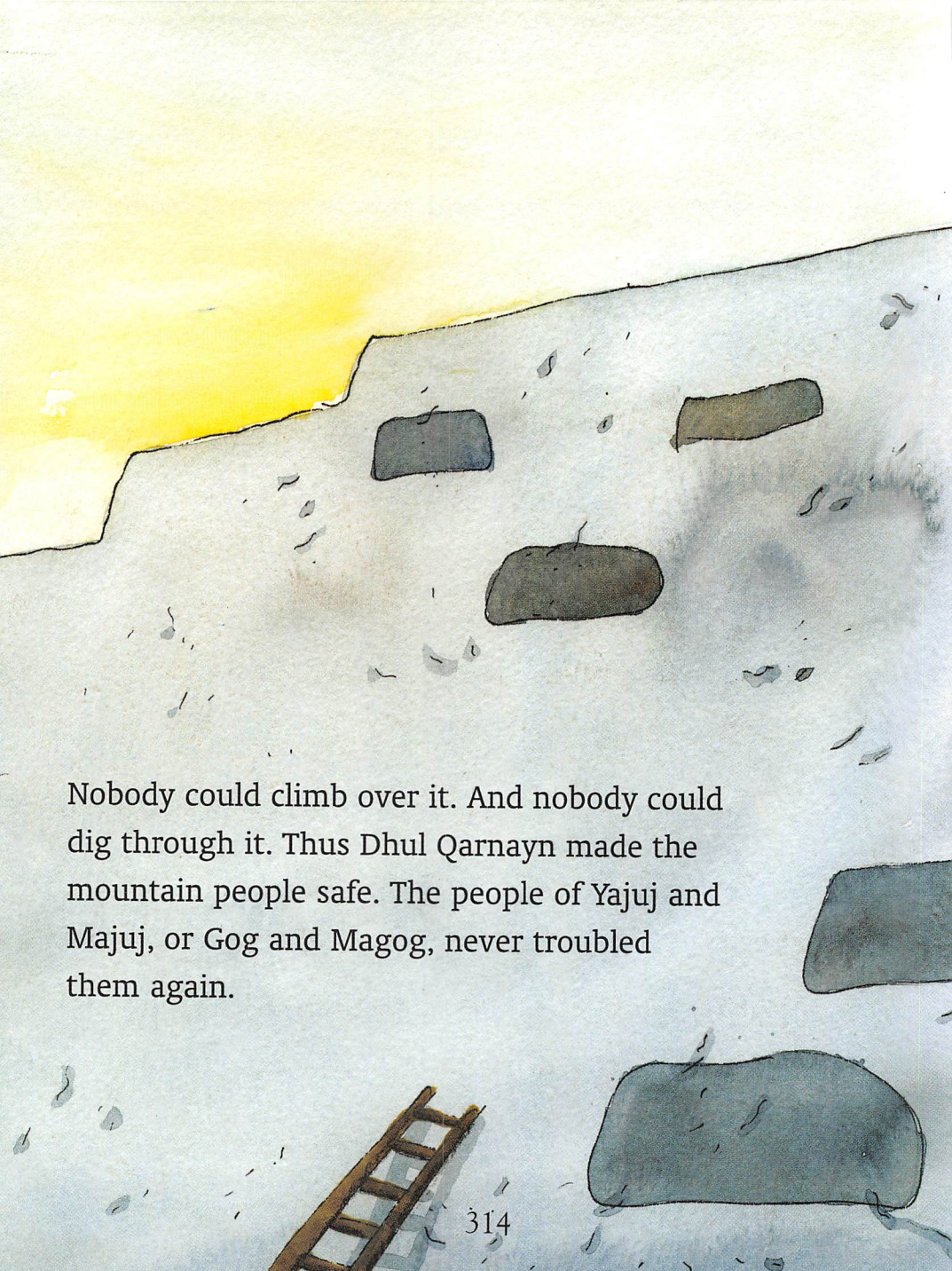
Dhul Qarnayn said: “I will build a big iron wall to protect you from the Yajuj and Majuj.”

The people of the mountains knew how to make iron. They also knew how to melt other metals. And they could make all sorts of metal things.

Dhul Qarnayn said to them: “Bring blocks of iron. Put them one on top of another. Make a wall between two mountains.”

Once the wall was in place, he said: “Heat the metals. Melt them into brass. Pour the liquid brass over the wall. Now let it set!”

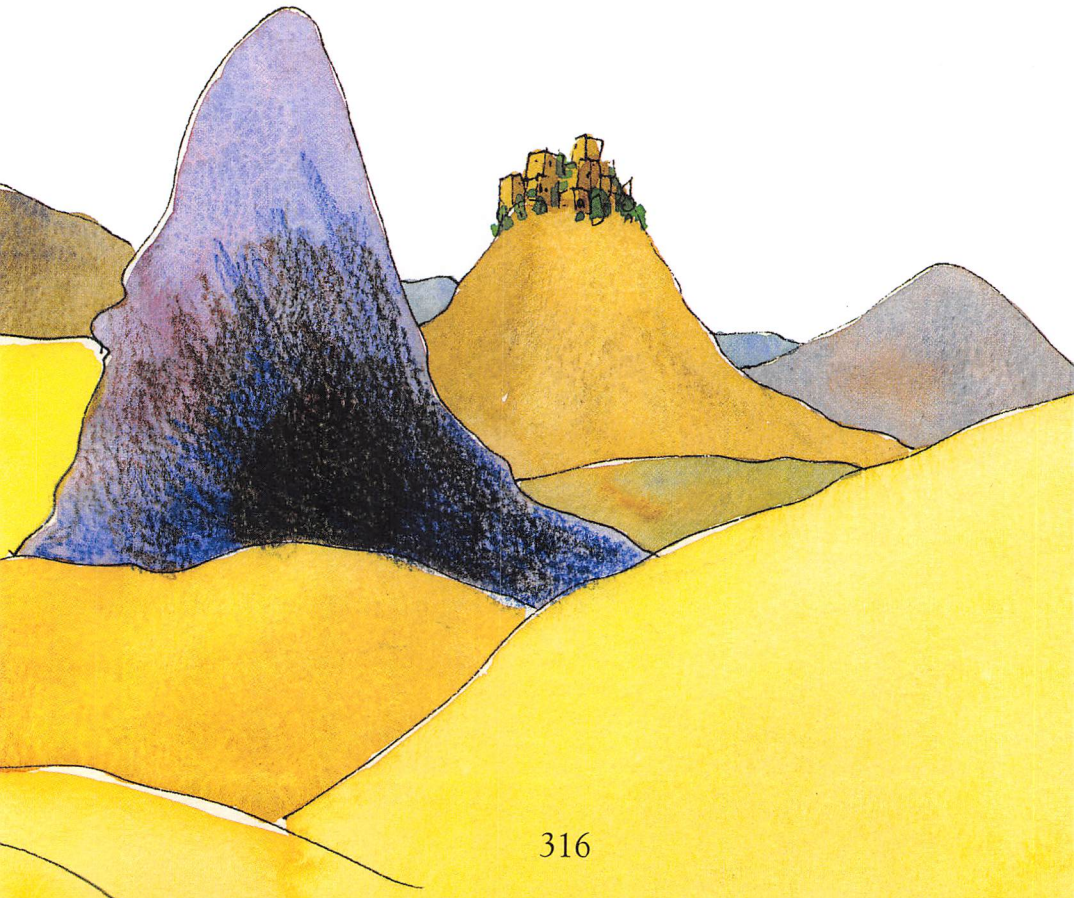
The iron wall closed the gap between the mountains. The brass made it slippery like glass.



Nobody could climb over it. And nobody could dig through it. Thus Dhul Qarnayn made the mountain people safe. The people of Yajuj and Majuj, or Gog and Magog, never troubled them again.



After conquering a major part of the then inhabited world, Dhul Qarnayn had lost none of his humility. He gave the entire credit for his feats to the blessing of Allah. Of the iron wall he had built, he said: This is a blessing from my Lord. But when my Lord's promise has been fulfilled, He will level it to dust. And the promise of my Lord is true."



Where to find the stories in the Quran

- 1 In the Beginning (*Surah al-Baqarah 2:117*)
- 2 The First Man (*Surah al-Baqarah 2:30-39; Surah Sad 38:71-85*)
- 3 The Pride of Iblis (*Surah Sad 38:71-85*)
- 4 Our World (*Surah al-Baqarah 2:29; Surah al-An'am 6:101; Surah Ibrahim 14:32-34*)
- 5 Allah Made them All (*Surah al-Baqarah 2:29; al-An'am 6:101*)
- 6 The First Prophet, The First Man (*Surah al-Baqarah 2:30-39; Surah Sad 38:71-85*)
- 7 The Two Brothers (*Surah al-Ma'idah 5:27-31*)
- 8 The Ark of Nuh (*Surah al-A'raf 7:59-64; Surah Hud 11:36-48*)
- 9 The Prophet Hud عليه السلام and the Terrible Wind (*Surah Hud 11:50-60; Surah al-Ahqaf 46:21-25; Surah Fussilat 41:15-16*)
- 10 The Camel and Evil People (*Surah al-A'raf 7:73-79; Surah Hud 11:61-68*)
- 11 The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام (*Surah al-An'am 6:74-80; Surah Maryam 19:41-50*)
- 12 The Prophet Ibrahim's Faith (*Surah al-An'am 6:74-80; Surah Maryam 19:41-50*)

- 13 The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام Travels to Arabia (Surah al-Baqarah 2:124-129; Surah al-An'am 6:74-80; Surah Ibrahim 14:35-37)
- 14 The Great Sacrifice (Surah as-Saffat 37:102-111)
- 15 The Prophet Ibrahim's Guests (Surah adh-Dharyat 51:24-37)
- 16 Building the Kabah (Surah al-Baqarah 2:125-127; Surah Al Imran 3:96-97)
- 17 The First Call to Hajj (Surah al-Baqarah 2:125-126)
- 18 The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام and His Brothers (Surah Yusuf 12:4-101)
- 19 The Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام and the King's Dreams (Surah Yusuf 12:42-49)
- 20 The Prophet Shuayb عليه السلام and the Earthquake (Surah al-A'raf 7:85-93; Surah Hud 11:84-95)
- 21 The Most Patient Man (Surah Sad 38:41-44; Surah al-Anbiya 21:83-84)
- 22 The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام and the Big Fish (Surah al-Anbiya 21:87-88; Surah as-Saffat 37:139-148)
- 23 The Treasure House (Surah al-Qasas 28:76-82)
- 24 The Prophet Uzayr's Donkey (Surah al-Baqarah 2:259)
- 25 Luqman's Advice (Surah Luqman 31:12-19)
- 26 The Sleepers in the Cave (Surah al-Kahf 18:10-26)
- 27 The Old Man's Prayer (Surah Al Imran 3:35-43)

- 28 The Story of Maryam (Surah Maryam 19:16-34)
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- 29 The Prophet Isa عليه السلام and the Miracle of the Feast (Surah al-Ma'idah 5:110-115)
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- 30 The Story of Two Gardens (Surah al-Kahf 18:32-43)
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- 31 The Kind Queen (Surah al-Qasas 28:7-13)
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- 32 The Prophet Musa عليه السلام Runs Away (Surah al-Qasas 28:14-25)
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- 33 The Prophet Musa عليه السلام and the Burning Bush (Surah Ta Ha 20:9-36)
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- 34 The King's Magicians (Surah al-A'raf 7:109-126)
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- 35 The Cruel King Drowns (Surah ash-Shu'ara 26:52-68)
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- 36 Allah Speaks to Prophet Musa عليه السلام (Surah al-A'raf 7:143-144; Surah Ta Ha 20:11-36)
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- 37 The Prophet Musa's People Disobey Allah (Surah al-Baqarah 2:54-61)
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- 38 A Brave Boy (Surah al-Baqarah 2:247-251)
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- 39 The Valley of Ants (Surah an-Naml 27:15-19)
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- 40 The Queen of Saba (Surah an-Naml 27:20-44)
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- 41 The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام and the Jinn (Surah Saba 34:12-14; Surah an-Naml 27:38-40)
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- 42 The Iron Wall (Surah al-Kahf 18:83-98)
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